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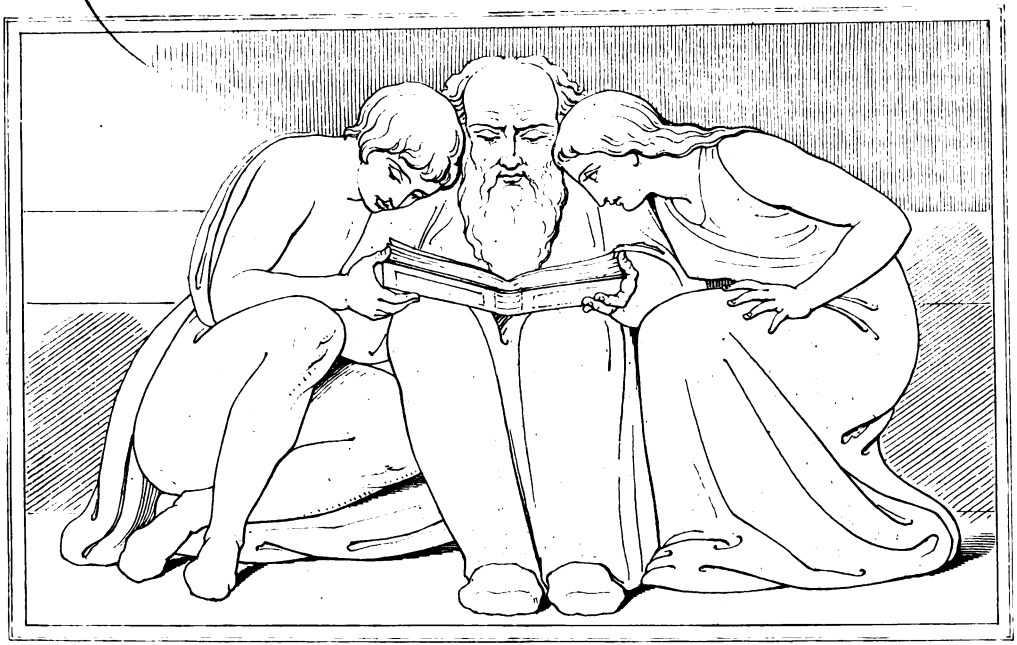

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SELECTIONS

FROM

THE OLD TESTAMENT:

OR

THE RELIGION, MORALITY, AND POETRY

OF

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES,

ARRANGED UNDER HEADS.

BY

SARAH AUSTIN.

AZ 2214

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY EFFINGHAM WILSON,

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1833.

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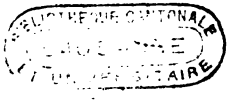

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PREFACE.

IT is with great diffidence that I submit to the public a work, which, though to me it has long appeared wanted, may to others seem a superfluous if not a presumptuous attempt.

I regard it as unfortunate that the dispute as to the expediency of putting the Bible entire into the hands of readers of all ages and classes, has been agitated of late with more than usual warmth and acrimony. It may be thought that I have had in view this state of the public mind, and have by the very act of publishing this little work, taken upon myself the character of a partisan.

There are few things which I should deem more absurd and unbecoming than the affecting to assume a place in the ranks of theological controversy, or to claim a deeper acquaintance with the sacred writings than the humblest of their readers can attain to. Happy were it (as it seems to me,) for the cause of religion and the peace of mankind, had all attempts at biblical criticism been left in the hands of adequately instructed men; whose acquirements and patient application might afford some presumption of their capacity for sound and dispassionate judgement.

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My humble labour was begun long ago. I ask nothing for it but the belief that it has been executed with such judgement as a wholly unlearned person could exercise;—at all events, with such care and reverence as the matter itself, much more than the hope of praise or fear of criticism, suggested to me.

My sole object has been to put together all that presented itself to my own heart and mind as most persuasive, consolatory, or elevating, in such a form and order as to be easy of reference, conveniently arranged and divided, and freed from matter either hard to be understood, unattractive, or unprofitable (to say the least) for young and pure eyes.

I am fully aware that there are defects of arrangement, some few repetitions, and the like. Few will perhaps be aware how much patient labour has been employed to bring it even to such a degree of perfection as it has now acquired.

The variety of styles, and the change of persons and times, often rendered the difficulty of making the passages on a given subject (extracted as they are from every part of the Bible,) read with any degree of continuity and coherence, almost insurmountable. Traces of this will be seen.

I have not affected to go in search of other—perhaps better—interpretations than the translation in common use offers. In my own total ignorance of the original, I might but stumble on blind guides. I must confess, strange and paradoxical as the opinion sounds in this age, that I have no confidence in the usefulness of half-lights on any subject—least of all on this; and it appeared to me that any faint and partial glimmerings I could catch from the works of others, would profit little, and might mislead much.

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I have omitted the narrative parts of the Bible, because they have been so often extracted and published, that I thought it needless to swell my volume with them.

Some brief sketches of the general history and fortunes of the Jewish nation, as rehearsed by David in his songs, will however be found at the end.

The Apocryphal Books are, I believe, little in the hands of the young; yet they contain passages of great beauty and splendour, and precepts which cannot too often be recalled. I have therefore subjoined an Appendix extracted from them.

The reasons which have confined my selection to the Hebrew Scriptures are so obvious, that it is not needful to enlarge upon them here.

S. A.

London: November, 1832.

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THE

OLD TESTAMENT.

INTRODUCTION.—On the Excellency of the Holy Scriptures.

LESSON I.

BLESSED is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity.

2 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

3 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

4 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

5 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.

6 Moreover, by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward.

7 Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

8 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

9 I rejoice at thy word as one that findeth great spoil.

10 Thy testimonies also are my delight, and my counsellors.

11 The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

12 The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

13 Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

14 I have seen an end of all perfection; but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

15 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

16 Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

17 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

18 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies as much as in all riches.

19 I will meditate in thy pre-

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cepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

20 I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.

21 Thy word is very pure, therefore thy servant loveth it.

22 Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.

23 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

LESSON II.

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

2 When thou goest, it shall lead thee: when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

3 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

4 What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul;

5 To keep the commandments of the Lord and his statutes, which I command thee for thy good?

6 For this commandment which I command thee, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off:

7 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

8 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

9 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

¶ 10 Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God; the earth also, with all that therein is.

11 Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee; and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever.

¶ 12 All my words that I shall speak unto thee, receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

13 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgements, and his statutes:

14 Lest when thou hast eaten, and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

15 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

16 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God.

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¶ 17 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.

18 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his way, and to fear him.

19 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

20 And these words which I command thee shall be in thine heart.

21 Thou shalt obey the voice of the Lord thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes.

¶ 22 Know thou the God of thy fathers, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind;

23 That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days.

24 Be ye very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left.

25 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

26 Ye shall observe to do as the Lord your God hath commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

27 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you; that ye may live, and that it may be well with you.

28 Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

29 Fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and take good heed unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

30 Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

Book I.—Attributes of God.

Section I.—*God the Creator.*

LESSON III.

In the beginning God created the heaven, and the earth:

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light,

that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light, Day, and the darkness he called, Night: and the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament; and divided the waters which were under the firmament, from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament, Heaven: and the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry land, Earth, and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven, to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven, to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

15 And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

16 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven, to give light upon the earth: and to rule over the day, and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

17 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

18 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

19 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

20 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

21 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

22 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the

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earth after his kind: and it was so.

23 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind: and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

24 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

25 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

26 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

27 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed, to you it shall be for meat: and to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

28 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

29 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

30 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made: and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

31 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work, which God created and made.

LESSON IV.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

5 In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

7 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

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8 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

9 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

10 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

11 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

12 He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; his word runneth very swiftly.

13 He giveth snow like wool; he scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes: he casteth forth his ice like morsels; Who can stand before his cold?

14 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

15 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

¶ 16 Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

17 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

18 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth, he maketh lightnings for rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries.

19 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

20 He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

21 He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

22 He created the heavens, and stretched them out, he spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it, he giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein.

23 The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

24 The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

25 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.

26 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.

¶ 27 The Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

28 In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

29 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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30 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

31 Let us fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

32 Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee; and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee:

33 Who knoweth not in all these, that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?

34 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

35 Who by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power: who stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

36 Who alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea. Who maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

37 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.

38 He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

¶ 39 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

40 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

LESSON V.

Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb; I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone, that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself:

2 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

3 I have made the earth, the man, and the beasts that are upon the ground, by my great power, and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

5 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

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6 Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I, the Lord?

7 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

8 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

9 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner-stone thereof?

10 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

11 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth as if it had issued out of the womb?

12 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling-band for it. And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.

13 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days? and caused the day-spring to know his place, that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

14 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in search of the depth?

15 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

16 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare, if thou knowest it all.

17 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, that thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?

18 Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?

19 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

20 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east-wind upon the earth?

21 Who hath divided a water-course for the overflowing of waters? or a way for the lightning of thunder, to cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man? To satisfy the desolate and waste ground, and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?

22 The Lord setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection; the stones of darkness and the shadow of death.

23 The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; even the waters forgotten of the foot; they are dried up, they are gone away from men.

24 As for the earth, out of it cometh bread; and under it is turned up as it were fire.

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The stones of it are the place of sapphires; and it hath dust of gold.

25 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it. Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone.

26 There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen. The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.

27 He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots. He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.

28 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

29 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

LESSON VI.

Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

2 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

3 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

4 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

5 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, when the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?

6 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, when they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?

7 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

8 Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.

9 He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver. The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing.

10 Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee?

11 Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him? Wilt thou believe him that he will bring home thy seed, and gather it into thy barn?

12 Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich? which leaveth her eggs

in the earth, and warmeth them in the dust, and forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them.

13 She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not her's: her labour is in vain without fear; because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.

14 What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider.

15 Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? The glory of his nostrils is terrible.

16 He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword. The quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and the shield.

17 He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet. He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

18 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?

19 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?

20 She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she.

LESSON VII.

O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters; who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind: who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers, a flaming fire.

4 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

5 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

6 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

7 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

8 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

9 He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven

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have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

10 He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

11 He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

12 The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir-trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats, and the rocks for the coneys.

13 He appointeth the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

14 Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

15 The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

16 Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour until the evening.

¶ 17 O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

18 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

19 These wait all upon thee: that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them, they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

20 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

21 The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

22 He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.

¶ 23 O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

24 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world: even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

25 The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world, and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south thou hast created them.

26 Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers.

27 The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

28 Thou hast set all the bor-

ders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.

29 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

30 Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers, thou blessest the springing thereof.

31 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

32 They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

33 The pastures are clothed with flocks: the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

34 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

Section II.—*God One.*

LESSON VIII.

Thus saith the Lord the king of Israel, I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.

2 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come? let them show unto them.

3 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God besides me? yea, there is no God: I know not any.

4 To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

5 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me: declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

6 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no god formed, neither shall there be after me.

7 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

8 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.

9 See now that I, even I am He, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

10 I am the Lord; that is my

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name: and my glory will I not give to another.

11 Who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a saviour: there is none beside me.

12 Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

13 I have sworn by myself; the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

¶ 14 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.

15 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.

16 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil. I the Lord do all these things.

17 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I the Lord have created it.

18 Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth, and made it, he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited, I am the Lord, and there is none else:

19 I will make my holy name known in the midst of my people, and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

20 I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your king. I am He; I am the first, I also am the last.

21 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

22 I am he that doth speak, behold, it is I. I am the Lord thy God, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

LESSON IX.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord.

2 Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

3 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

4 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

5 Blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

6 Thou, even thou, art Lord

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alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the seas and all that is therein; and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth thee.

7 O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

8 O Lord God, thou hast begun to show thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might? thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth.

9 Thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee.

10 Who is God, save the Lord? or who is a rock, save our God?

11 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations.

12 The Lord is the true God; he is the living God, and an everlasting king: and the Lord shall be king over all the earth; in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

13 As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

¶ 14 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath, there is none else.

15 Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God, there is none else beside him.

16 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord, neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wonderous things: thou art God alone.

17 Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee?

18 O Lord, our God, save us, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord, even thou only: that men may know that thou whose name alone is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth.

19 For thou, Lord, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

LESSON X.

Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel.

2 Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth

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a tree out of the forest (the work of the hands of the workman) with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

4 They are upright as the palm-tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them: for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

5 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O Lord; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

6 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

7 But they are altogether brutish, and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

8 Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

9 But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, and an everlasting King: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

10 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

11 Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

12 The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things. The Lord of hosts is his name.

13 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

14 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

15 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation, chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image that shall not be moved.

16 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

17 It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

18 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

19 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them,

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and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

20 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

21 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

22 The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.

23 For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.

SECTION III.—*God invisible.*

LESSON XI.

CANST thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

2 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

3 Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.

4 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: on the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him.

5 Who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word and heard it?

6 Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or, being his counsellor, hath taught him?

7 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgement, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

8 God speaketh once, yea, twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

9 No man hath seen God at any time.

10 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction. That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

11 Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars how high they are.

12 And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?

13 Thick clouds are a covering to him that he seeth not, and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.

14 Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel the saviour!

15 God is greater than man. Why dost thou strive against

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him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

16 Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgement is before him; therefore trust thou in him.

17 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth; so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

18 Thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me and live.

SECTION IV.—*God all-present and all-seeing.*

LESSON XII.

AM I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places, that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

2 Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

3 I have declared the former things from the beginning, and they went forth out of my mouth; and I shewed them, I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.

4 I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.

5 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

6 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: for mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. For I know their works and their thoughts.

7 Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

8 The Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

9 Times are not hidden from the Almighty. The heaven, and heaven of heavens cannot contain him.

LESSON XIII.

O LORD thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

2 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

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3 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

4 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

5 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

6 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.

7 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea: even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

8 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me: even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

9 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

10 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret.

11 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

12 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them. If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when I wake, I am still with thee.

13 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

LESSON XIV.

Why sayest thou, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgement is passed over from my God?

2 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

4 The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

5 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

6 The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try the children of men; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.

7 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

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8 The fining-pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.

9 The heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

10 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.

11 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

12 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes: but the Lord weigheth the spirits. For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

13 There is no darkness nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

14 They break in pieces thy people, O Lord, and afflict thine heritage: They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless: Yet they say, The Lord shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.

15 Understand, ye brutish among the people; and ye fools, when will ye be wise?

16 He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

17 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not: Doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

18 O Lord of hosts that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, thou, O Lord, knowest me, thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart towards thee.

¶ 19 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

20 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; The Lord hath forsaken the earth.

21 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay. For shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

22 If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god: shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

23 Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

24 I know that he can do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from him: Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.

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25 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

26 For the Lord seeth not as man seeth: for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

27 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.

28 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

29 The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

30 God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

SECTION V.—*God almighty.*

LESSON XV.

THE Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubim: let the earth be moved.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all people.

3 Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

4 Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

5 O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the Lord most High is terrible: he is a great king over all the earth.

6 God is gone up with a shout, the Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.

7 Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our king, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

9 O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

10 Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

11 Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

12 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen, that the Lord reigneth: the world also shall be established, that it shall not be moved; he shall judge the people righteously.

13 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad: let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he

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cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

14 Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.

15 Say unto God, how terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

16 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name.

¶ 17 Come and see the works of God; he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

18 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

19 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

20 Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

21 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder, he burneth the chariots in the fire.

22 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

23 Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

24 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth; the Lord is upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

25 The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

26 The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

¶ 27 O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; the earth shook; the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

28 He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms.

29 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

30 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

31 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly, upon the wings of the wind.

32 He made darkness his secret place; his pavillion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

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33 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed; hail-stones and coals of fire.

34 The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hailstones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

35 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

36 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

37 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee: they were afraid; the depths also were troubled.

38 The clouds poured out water; the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.

39 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world, the earth trembled and shook.

40 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

41 The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever.

LESSON XVI.

My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girt with strength.

5 They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath borne seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

7 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.

8 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness: for by strength shall no man prevail: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

9 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

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10 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

¶ 11 The Lord God of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood: and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

12 It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth; The Lord is his name.

13 Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night; that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his name.

14 For lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, the God of hosts is his name.

15 Bless the most High, praise and honour him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.

16 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

17 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt-offering. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

LESSON XVII.

Fear ye not me? saith the Lord: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it; and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

2 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

3 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: Is there any thing too hard for me?

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4 Yea, before the day was, I am He, and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

5 I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen. The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

6 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

¶ 7 Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters: which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power:

8 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also with all that therein is.

9 Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.

10 Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up: also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth.

11 With him is strength and wisdom, the deceived and the deceiver are his.

12 He leadeth counsellors away spoiled; and maketh the judges fools.

13 He looseth the bond of kings, and girdeth their loins with a girdle.

14 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

15 He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.

16 He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.

17 He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.

18 He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them, he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.

19 He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth, and causeth them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way.

20 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.

21 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

¶ 22 Blessed be the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.

23 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory. Sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Isreal.

24 The Lord of hosts is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

25 The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

26 The Lord thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.

27 The right hand of the Lord is exalted: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly. God is God of gods, and a Lord of kings.

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28 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

29 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens, and rejoice before him.

30 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the holy place.

31 Great is our Lord, and of great power; his understanding is infinite.

¶ 32 Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any; he is mighty in strength and wisdom.

33 The Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods;

34 Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

35 Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth water upon the fields.

¶ 36 The Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory and for a diadem of beauty unto his people, and for a spirit of judgement to him that sitteth in judgement, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

37 Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his.

38 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.

39 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

40 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

41 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

42 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

LESSON XVIII.

Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.

2 For he maketh small the drops of water; they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof, which the clouds do drop, and distil upon man abundantly.

3 Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, or the noise of his tabernacle?

4 Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it, and covereth the bottom of the sea.

5 For he judgeth the people; he giveth meat in abundance.

6 With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it not to shine, by the cloud that cometh betwixt.

7 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.

8 Every man may see it; man may behold it afar off.

9 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.

10 He directeth it under the

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whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

11 After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency.

12 God thundereth marvellously with his voice: great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

13 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.

14 He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.

15 Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places.

16 Out of the south cometh the whirlwind; and cold out of the north.

17 By the breath of God frost is given; and the breadth of the waters is straitened.

18 Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud; he scattereth his bright cloud.

19 And it is turned round about by his counsels; that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the earth.

20 He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.

21 Hearken unto this: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

22 Dost thou know when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine?

23 Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?

24 How thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south-wind?

25 Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking-glass?

26 And men see not the bright light which is in the clouds; but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them.

27 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty.

28 Teach us what we shall say unto him; for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness.

29 He frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; he turneth wise men backward, and maketh knowledge foolish.

30 Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgement, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

LESSON XIX.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

2 When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him?

3 Dominion and fear are with him, he maketh peace in his high places. Is there any number of his armies? and upon whom doth not his light arise?

4 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

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5 He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered?

6 Which removeth the mountains, and they know not; which overturneth them in his anger:

7 Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble:

8 Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars:

9 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

10 The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at his reproof.

11 He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

12 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens: his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

13 Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

¶ 14 Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all his praise?

15 Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord.

16 To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens which were of old; Lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.

17 Ascribe ye strength unto God; his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.

18 O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

19 Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord the first, and the last; I am He. The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid.

20 At the noise of the tumult the people fled: at the lifting up of thyself the nations are scattered.

21 Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas: and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters.

22 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

23 He saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers.

¶ 24 O Lord, thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

25 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

26 He shall cut off the spirit of princes: he is terrible to the kings of the earth.

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LESSON XX.

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name: for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

2 For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city, a ruin; a palace of strangers, to be no city: it shall never be built.

3 Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee.

4 For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

5 Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place: even the heat with the shadow of a cloud; the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low.

6 And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting-down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hail-stones.

7 The earth shall quake before him, the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

8 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

9 Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

10 For behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

11 And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft; as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

¶ 12 The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

13 O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known: in wrath remember mercy.

14 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Param. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise, and his brightness was as the light; before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

15 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

16 Was the Lord displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that

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thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

17 Thy bow was made quite naked. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

18 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

19 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

20 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters.

21 The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind, and in the storm; and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers. The mountains quake at him and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world and all that dwell therein.

¶ 22 The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished that it cannot be moved.

23 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

24 The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

25 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

26 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

27 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

28 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts; and I will declare thy greatness.

29 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

30 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

31 O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong lord like unto thee! or to thy faithfulness round about thee!

32 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

33 Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

34 For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord! who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord!

¶ 35 The Lord reigneth: let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

36 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his throne.

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37 A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.

38 His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

39 The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

40 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

41 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power: To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

42 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and amen.

SECTION VI.—*God eternal and unchangeable.*

LESSON XXI.

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world; even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

3 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

4 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

5 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

6 The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

7 They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

8 Thy throne is established of old; thou art from everlasting.

9 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

10 Thou, Lord, art most high for evermore: thy years are throughout all generations.

11 Thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever, and thy remembrance unto all generations.

12 Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgements endureth for ever.

13 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

14 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

15 Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

16 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

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17 Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever.

18 Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations.

19 I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

20 For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.

21 Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

¶ 22 The Lord thy God he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him, and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

23 The Lord is King for ever and ever.

24 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

25 The works of his hands are verity and judgement: all his commandments are sure.

26 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

27 He is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth.

28 His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

29 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

¶ 30 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

31 The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

32 I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

33 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

34 The Strength of Israel will not lie, nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. For he performeth the thing that is appointed.

35 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

36 For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall

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disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

37 The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

38 His work is honourable and glorious; and his righteousness endureth for ever.

LESSON XXII.

The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: for I am the Lord; I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass.

2 I the Lord have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it: I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent. According to thy ways, and according to thy doings will I judge thee, saith the Lord God.

3 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

4 Know therefore that the Lord thy God he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him, and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

¶ 5 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

6 Be ye not as your fathers, to whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.

7 Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

8 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned, and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

¶ 9 Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgement to rest for a light of the people.

10 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arm shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

11 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

12 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear

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ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

13 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

SECTION VII.—*Goodness of God.*

LESSON XXIII.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; and gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

3 They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way, they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

4 Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

5 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

¶ 6 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

7 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

8 Such as sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the Most High:

9 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

10 Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.

11 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

¶ 12 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

13 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

14 Fools because of their transgression and because of their iniquities are afflicted:

15 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

16 Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.

17 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

¶ 18 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

19 Let them sacrifice the sa-

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crifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

20 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

21 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

22 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.

23 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.

24 Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

25 He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

26 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

¶ 27 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

28 Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

29 He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water-springs into dry ground, a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

30 He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water-springs.

31 And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation: and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.

32 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly, and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

33 Again they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction and sorrow.

34 He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.

35 Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

36 The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

37 Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.

LESSON XXIV.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?

2 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

3 The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

4 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.

5 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

6 In my distress I called up-

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on the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

7 When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O Lord, held me up.

8 For thy mercy is great above the heavens; and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

9 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; and thy glory above all the earth.

10 Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high! who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!

11 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.

12 God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains.

13 God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom and knowledge and joy.

14 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

15 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!

¶ 16 The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works.

17 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

18 The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

19 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

20 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

21 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

22 The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

23 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

24 The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

¶ 25 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

26 Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

27 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgements are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

28 How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

29 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house: and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.

30 O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee, and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

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31 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance when it was weary.

32 Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

33 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

34 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

35 Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

36 Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

LESSON XXV.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement for all that are oppressed.

7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

14 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

15 The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

¶ 16 Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

17 Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

18 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

19 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

20 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the

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fig-tree and the vine do yield their strength.

21 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

22 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

23 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

SECTION VIII.—*Forgivingness of God.*

LESSON XXVI.

THUS saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

3 For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord; thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

4 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

5 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

6 Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever.

7 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God.

8 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

9 I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

10 For the iniquity of man's covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

11 I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him, and to his mourners.

12 I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.

13 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot

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rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

14 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

15 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgements;

16 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

17 Then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

18 Nevertheless, my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

19 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

¶ 20 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them: return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye say, Wherein shall we return?

21 Cast away from you all your transgressions whereby ye have transgressed, and make you a new heart and a new spirit; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

22 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

23 Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

24 If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

25 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done, he shall live.

26 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God; and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

LESSON XXVII.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

2 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

3 When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

4 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

5 I will be his father, and he shall be my son; if he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men.

6 But my mercy shall not depart away from him.

¶ 7 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet,

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they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

8 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

9 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

10 Remember these, (O Jacob and Israel,) for thou art my servant, I have formed thee: thou art my servant, O Israel; thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

11 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

12 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

13 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

14 Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

15 For now will I break thy yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.

¶ 16 Thus saith the Lord God of Israel:

17 Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me, I have even heard thee also, saith the Lord.

18 Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee: I answered thee in the secret place of thunder.

LESSON XXVIII.

THUS saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

2 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and we will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.

3 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.

4 They shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them.

5 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

6 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

7 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely.

8 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them: and I will take

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the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

9 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

10 I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

12 Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name:

13 If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

14 Oh that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

¶ 15 Thus saith the Lord, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears:

16 Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted:

17 Thus saith thy Lord the Lord, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling; thou shalt no more drink it again.

18 For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee.

19 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

20 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

21 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

¶ 22 Oh thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

23 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

24 And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children.

25 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression, for thou

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shalt not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near thee.

26 And even to thine old age, I am He, and even to hoar hairs will I carry thee; I have made, and I will bear, even I will carry, and will deliver thee.

27 Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.

28 Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?

29 Will he reserve his anger for ever? will he keep it to the end?

¶ 30 Thus saith the Lord thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God, which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

31 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

32 For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.

LESSON XXIX.

If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities; O Lord, who shall stand?

2 But there is forgiveness with thee; that thou mayest be feared.

3 Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.

4 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

¶ 5 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

6 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; he will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

7 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

8 For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again:

9 Neither doth God respect any person; yet doth he devise means that his banished be not expelled from him.

10 Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious; long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

11 Thou art a gracious God, and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

12 Thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer, thy name is from everlasting.

13 Return, for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.

14 The good Lord pardoneth every one that prepareth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers.

15 For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will

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not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

16 If thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thine heart, and with all thy soul:

17 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice,

18 (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God,) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee.

19 If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

¶ 20 Despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

21 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

22 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

23 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

24 Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

25 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

26 The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion: slow to anger, and of great mercy.

¶ 27 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

28 And therefore will the Lord wait that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgement; blessed are all they that wait for him.

29 Ye shall weep no more: he will be very gracious unto you at the voice of your cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer you.

30 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

31 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right-hand, and when ye turn to the left.

LESSON XXX.

I COMMUNED with mine own heart, and my spirit made diligent search.

2 Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?

3 Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?

4 Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies?

5 And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.

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6 I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

7 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

8 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin.

9 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger towards us to cease.

10 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?

11 Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?

12 Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation.

¶ 13 I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

14 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; they shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto them; and they shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

15 He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

16 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

17 Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man,

18 To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

19 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

20 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad, and rejoice in his salvation.

21 And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

22 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

23 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

¶ 24 I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us; and the great goodness towards the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them, according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving-kindness.

25 For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their saviour.

26 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them in his love, and in his pity he redeemed them, and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

27 But they rebelled, and

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vexed his holy spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

28 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea? where the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy spirit within him?

29 That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

30 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?

31 As a beast goeth down into the valley, the spirit of the Lord caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.

32 Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

33 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

34 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

35 Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Section IX.—*Justice of God.*

LESSON XXXI.

The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgement, and in righteousness: and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

2 The Lord cometh, he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

3 The Lord shall judge the people: judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.

4 O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

5 O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

6 Thou, even thou, art to be feared, and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?

7 Thou didst cause judgement to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still,

8 When God arose to judgement, to save all the meek of the earth.

9 The Lord trieth the righteous; but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

10 For the righteous Lord

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loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

¶ 11 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked; for there is a time for every purpose and for every work.

12 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

13 O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

14 Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

15 The Lord is known by the judgement which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.

16 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself.

17 For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.

18 He loveth righteousness and judgement: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

19 Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

20 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord: for he cometh to judge the earth:

21 With righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

22 To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

23 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.

24 He taketh the wise in their own craftiness; and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

25 They meet with darkness in the day-time, and grope in the noon-day as in the night.

26 But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty.

27 So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

¶ 28 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God;

29 Which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; which keepeth truth for ever:

30 Which executeth judgement for the oppressed, which giveth food to the hungry.

31 The Lord looseth the prisoners.

32 The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous.

33 The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

34 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

35 The Lord lifteth up the

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meek; he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

36 The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

37 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

38 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

39 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

40 This shall be written for the generation to come; and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.

41 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth;

42 To hear the groaning of the prisoner, to loose those that are appointed to death;

43 To declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;

44 When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord.

45 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our law-giver, the Lord is our king, he will save us.

LESSON XXXII.

Praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgement: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

2 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

3 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

4 Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty.

5 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

6 For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.

7 And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled.

8 But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgement, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

9 God is the judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

10 A God of truth, and without iniquity; just and right is he. He is excellent in power, and judgement, and in plenty of justice.

11 The Lord, the Lord God, is merciful, and gracious, long-

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suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth:

12 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.

13 The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

14 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

15 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burnt at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

16 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

¶ 17 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble;

18 He knoweth them that trust in him; but darkness shall pursue his enemies.

19 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

20 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

21 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again.

22 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

23 For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee; thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

24 The just Lord will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgement to light, he faileth not.

25 He is the rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgement: a God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right is he.

LESSON XXXIII.

AH Lord God, behold thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched-out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

2 Thou shewest loving-kindness unto thousands, and recompensest iniquity: the Great, the Mighty God, the Lord of hosts is his name,

3 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men, to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

4 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an

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upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright:

5 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

6 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

¶ 7 Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness.

8 Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die.

9 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?

10 O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgement; and O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

11 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

12 Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgements. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

13 Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

14 Justice and judgement are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

15 I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

16 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

17 And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

18 Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

19 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgements are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

LESSON XXXIV.

Behold; God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.

2 He preserveth not the life of the wicked; but giveth right to the poor.

3 He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted.

4 And if they be bound in fetters, and be holden in cords of affliction:

5 Then he sheweth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.

6 He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity.

7 If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

8 But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and

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they shall die without knowledge.

9 Far be it from God that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty that he should commit iniquity.

10 For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

11 Yea, surely, God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgement.

12 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil-doers:

13 They that hate him shall be clothed with shame, and the dwelling-place of the wicked shall come to nought.

14 He delivereth the poor in their affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression.

15 For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.

¶ 16 The Lord shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgement:

17 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness.

18 The wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth.

19 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

20 His ways are always grievous; thy judgements are far above out of his sight.

21 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved; for I shall never be in adversity.

22 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

23 He sitteth in the lurking-places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

24 He croucheth and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.

25 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten; he hideth his face; he will never see it.

¶ 26 Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

27 Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it.

28 Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

29 Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

¶ 30 The Lord is King for ever and ever.

31 Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

32 To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.

33 The way of the just is uprightness: Thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just.

34 The Lord executeth righ-

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teousness and judgement for all that are oppressed.

35 The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

36 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

37 For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord: I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

LESSON XXXV.

THE word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 What mean ye that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

3 As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

5 But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,

6 And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge; hath spoiled none by violence; hath given his bread to the hungry, hath covered the naked with a garment; and hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity; hath executed true judgement between man and man;

7 Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgements to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord God.

¶ 8 If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things,

9 Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence; shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations, he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.

¶ 10 Now lo, if he beget a son that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like,

11 Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

12 That hath taken off his hand from the poor, hath executed my judgements, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.

13 As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity.

14 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

15 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

16 All his transgressions that

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he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done, he shall live.

17 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

¶ 18 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

19 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in it; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

20 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

21 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

LESSON XXXVI.

Now will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved; touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill.

2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a wine-press therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down.

6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged: but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgement, but behold, oppression; for righteousness, but behold, a cry.

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¶ 8 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precept of men:

9 Therefore behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work amongst this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

10 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

11 I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

¶ 12 As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way, and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

13 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

14 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed he shall die for it.

15 Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die: if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right;

16 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

17 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

18 Yet the children of thy people say, The way of the Lord is not equal: but as for them, their way is not equal.

19 When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

20 But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

21 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. O ye house of Israel, I will judge you every one after his ways, and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord God.

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Book II.—Of the Condition, Duties and Destiny of Man.

Section I.—*Commandments of God.*

LESSON XXXVII.

GOD spake all these words, saying;

2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage:

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation, and shewing mercy unto thousands, of them that love me and keep my commandments.

6 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that taketh his name in vain.

7 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee.]*

8 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

9 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: [that thy man-servant and thy maid-servant may rest as well as thou.]

10 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. [And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence by a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm; therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.]

¶ 11 Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long [and that it may go well with thee] in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

12 Thou shalt not kill.

13 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

14 Thou shalt not steal.

15 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

* The passages within brackets contain the version of the Commandments from the Book of Deuteronomy.

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16 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

¶ 17 I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgements, and do them.

18 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes which he hath commanded you.

19 And ye shall do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord.

¶ 20 Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgement, and shew mercy and compassion every man to his brother:

21 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

22 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour: execute the judgement of truth and peace in your gates;

23 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.

24 Seek good, and not evil; that ye may live: and so the Lord the God of hosts shall be with you.

25 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgement in the gate:

26 For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward.

27 He doth execute the judgement of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

28 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

¶ 29 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

30 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things which thine eyes have seen.

31 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

32 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

33 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of his law:

34 And that their children which have not known any thing, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God.

¶ 35 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy

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mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

36 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater;

37 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

LESSON XXXVIII.

I AM the Almighty God, walk before me, and be ye perfect.

2 Sanctify yourselves, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God.

3 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you.

4 Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgements, and do them.

5 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary; I am the Lord.

6 Ye shall do my judgements, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God.

7 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgements: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord. Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.

8 Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.

9 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

10 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.

11 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night, until the morning.

12 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling-block before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the Lord.

13 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgement: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

14 Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the Lord.

15 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

16 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.

17 Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him.

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18 And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee, then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

19 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.

20 Ye shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.

21 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

22 Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

23 If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry.

24 Ye shall not oppress one another; but ye shall fear your God: for I am the Lord your God.

25 Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgements, and do them: I am the Lord.

26 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven let it be diligently done.

27 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

¶ 28 Thus saith the Lord, Execute ye judgement and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, and do no wrong; do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood.

29 But let judgement run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

30 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

31 Keep ye judgement, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.

32 Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth his hand from doing any evil.

LESSON XXXIX.

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves of a year old:

2 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

3 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

4 Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

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and to hearken, than the fat of rams.

5 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt-offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats.

6 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand to tread my courts?

7 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

8 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me: I am weary to bear them.

9 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

¶ 10 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

11 Learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

12 Thou shalt not wrest judgement: thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

13 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

14 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren, within any of thy gates, in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother;

15 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

16 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

17 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

18 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee and unto thine house.

¶ 19 Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind.

20 If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

21 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and

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judgement, and wait on thy God continually; and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor.

22 Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

¶ 23 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts.

24 Is the spirit of the Lord straitened? are these his doings? do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?

25 For I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee.

26 And if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgement between a man and his neighbour;

27 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood;

28 Then will I cause you to dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

¶ 29 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

30 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness; and put your trust in the Lord.

31 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

32 Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

33 The Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgements: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart and with all thy soul.

34 The Lord will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers;

35 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God to keep his commandments and his statutes, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul.

LESSON XL.

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart:

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour:

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord: he that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

5 He that doeth these things, shall never be moved.

¶ 6 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? and who shall stand in his holy place?

7 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not

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lift up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

8 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

9 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

10 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him, his waters shall be sure.

11 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

12 The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him into the will of his enemies.

13 The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

14 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¶15 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

16 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

17 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

18 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

19 The Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself:

20 The meek will he guide in judgement: and the meek will he teach his way.

21 What man is he that fareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

SECTION II.—*Threatenings of God.*

LESSON XLI.

Wo to them that devise iniquity and work evil upon their beds: when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

2 And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

¶ 3 Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

4 Is not destruction to the wicked, and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

5 For the rich men are full of violence, and have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

¶ 6 Wo unto them that call

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evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.

7 Wo unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.

8 Wo unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

9 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him.

10 Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

¶ 11 Wo unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;

12 To turn aside the needy from judgement, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless.

13 And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

14 Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary God also?

15 Because ye have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the rock of your strength, therefore shall ye plant pleasant plants, and shall set it with strange slips:

16 In the day shall ye make your plant to grow, and in the morning shall ye make your seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow.

¶ 17 The Lord standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

18 The Lord will enter into judgement with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

19 What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord God of hosts.

20 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity: your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

21 And ye shall know that I am the Lord: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgements.

¶ 22 Wo unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth.

23 Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant.

¶ 24 Wo unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink, and continue until night, till wine inflame them.

25 And the harp and the

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viol, the tabret and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts; but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands.

¶ 26 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

27 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not,

28 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

29 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord.

30 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

31 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

32 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

33 And I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their doings.

34 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God.

¶ 35 The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

36 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

37 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, and the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

38 Neither their silver, nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath.

39 Wo unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

40 And they have not cried unto me with their heart.

LESSON XLII.

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice: they take delight in approaching to God:

¶ 3 Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of

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your fast you find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness; ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him, and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

¶ 8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee, the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.

9 Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer: thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am: if thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity:

10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day.

11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones, and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

12 And they that shall be of thee, shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.

¶ 13 Hear, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail; making the ephah small and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit:

14 The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of your works. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

¶ 15 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God, they are corrupt; they have done abominable works; there is none that doeth good.

16 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

17 They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not one.

¶ 18 The transgression of the wicked saith within his heart,

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that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

19 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

20 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

21 He deviseth mischief upon his bed: he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

22 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

¶ 23 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home; who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

24 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Wo to him that increaseth that which is not his: how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay.

25 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

26 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

¶ 27 Wo unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work.

28 Wo to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil.

29 Wo to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity.

30 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts, that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

31 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

LESSON XLIII.

THUS saith the Lord God unto the shepherds, Wo be to the shepherds of Israel, that do feed themselves: should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

2 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool: ye kill them that are fed, but ye feed not the flock.

3 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost: but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them,

4 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all

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the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

5 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill; yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

¶ 6 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord.

7 As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

8 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord.

9 Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock, neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more: for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

¶ 10 For thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I, even I will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

11 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock, in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

12 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

13 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

14 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God:

15 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong, I will feed them with judgement.

¶ 16 Seemeth it a small thing unto you, to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?

17 And as for my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet.

18 Because ye have thrust with side, and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad:

19 Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey, and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

20 And I will make with

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them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

21 And I will make them, and the places round about my hill, a blessing: and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

22 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

23 Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they are my people, saith the Lord God.

24 And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God.

LESSON XLIV.

God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Ye know not, neither will ye understand; ye walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

3 I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

¶ 4 Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel, Is it not for you to know judgement?

5 Who hate the good and love the evil; who pluck off the skin of my people from them, and their flesh from off their bones;

6 They shall cry unto the Lord, but he shall not hear them; he will hide his face from them at that time as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings: they abhor judgement and pervert all equity.

7 The heads of the house of Jacob judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us.

¶ 8 Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God.

9 I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt-offerings, to have been continually before me.

10 I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he-goats out of thy folds.

11 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

12 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

13 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

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¶ 14 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

15 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

16 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

17 But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?

18 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

19 When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers.

20 Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.

21 Thou sittest, and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son.

22 Thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence to do it.

23 These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

24 Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

¶ 25 The meek shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

26 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed; and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

27 That make man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought:

28 That say, Stand by thyself, come not near me, for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nostrils, and fire all the day long.

29 Ye turn judgement to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth.

30 Ye hate him that speaketh in the gate, and ye abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

31 Ye have ploughed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

32 The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful.

33 For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the Lord, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

34 The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.

35 Forasmuch therefore as

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your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burthens of wheat; ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

36 Why transgress ye the commandments of the Lord that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the Lord he hath also forsaken you.

37 Are there not with you, even with you, sins against the Lord your God?

38 For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins; ye afflict the just, ye take a bribe, and ye turn aside the poor from their right.

SECTION III.—*Holy Resolutions.*

LESSON XLV.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

2 Doth not God see my ways, and count all my steps?

3 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;

4 Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

5 If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to my hands:

6 Then let me sow, and let another eat, yea, let my offspring be rooted out.

7 If I did despise the cause of my man-servant, or of my maid-servant, when they contended with me;

8 What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?

9 Did not he that made me in the womb, make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

10 If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;

11 Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;

12 If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;

13 If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;

14 If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate;

15 Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder-blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.

16 For destruction from God was a terror to me: and by reason of his highness I could not endure.

¶ 17 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence:

18 If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much:

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19 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

20 If I covered my transgressions, as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:

21 Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me; that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?

22 Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was not my soul grieved for the poor?

23 When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:

24 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

25 The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

26 The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.

27 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgement was as a robe and a diadem.

28 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

29 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not, I searched out.

30 Unto me men gave ear, and waited and kept silence at my counsel.

31 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

¶ 32 All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

33 My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit; till I die, I will not remove my integrity from me.

34 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

35 My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

36 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

37 The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

38 For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

39 For all his judgements were before me: and as for his statutes I did not depart from them.

40 I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

41 Therefore the Lord hath recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

¶ 42 Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.

43 Surely I have behaved and quieted myself as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

44 Remember now, O Lord,

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I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth, and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.

LESSON XLVI.

JUDGE me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide.

2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

3 For thy loving-kindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

4 I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

5 I have hated the congregation of evil-doers: and will not sit with the wicked.

6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord:

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

8 Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

9 Now therefore, I pray thee, If I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee;

10 Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

11 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

12 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

13 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips; O Lord, thou knowest.

14 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

15 I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle.

¶ 16 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

17 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

18 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

19 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness.

20 Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

21 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting-up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

22 Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

23 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work ini-

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quity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

24 Let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil.

25 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

LESSON XLVII.

I WILL sing of mercy and judgement: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

2 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

3 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

4 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

5 With my lips have I declared all the judgements of thy mouth.

6 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

7 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

8 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

9 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgements.

10 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly!

11 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

12 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

¶ 13 Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

14 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

15 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

16 My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgements at all times.

17 Thy servant doth meditate in thy statutes; I have trusted in thy mercy, my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

18 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

19 I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

20 Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

21 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

22 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

23 I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgements have I laid before me.

24 I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame.

25 I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

26 Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

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27 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

28 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments: for therein do I delight.

29 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

30 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

31 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

LESSON XLVIII.

Let thy mercies come unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word.

2 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

3 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgements.

4 So shall I keep thy law continually, for ever and ever.

5 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

6 I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

7 And I will delight myself in thy commandments which I have loved.

8 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

¶ 9 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

10 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

11 The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.

12 I remembered thy judgements of old, O Lord: and have comforted myself.

13 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

14 I have remembered thy name, O Lord, in the night, and have kept thy law.

15 This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

16 Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep thy words.

17 I entreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

18 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

19 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

20 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

¶ 21 The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

22 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word.

23 Teach me good judgement and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

24 Before I was afflicted, I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

25 Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

26 It is good for me that I

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have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

27 Therefore I will look unto the Lord: I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

28 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

29 I know, O Lord, that thy judgements are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

30 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

31 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

32 Let my heart be found in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

LESSON XLIX.

My soul fainteth for thy salvation; but I hope in thy word.

2 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

3 Unless thy law had been my delight, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

4 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

5 I am thine, save me: for I have sought thy precepts.

6 I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O Lord, for it is good.

7 O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

8 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

9 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

10 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

11 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

12 I have not departed from thy judgements: for thou hast taught me.

13 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

14 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

15 Teach me and I will hold my tongue, and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

16 I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgements.

17 I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word.

¶ 18 Accept, I beseech thee, the free-will-offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me thy judgements.

19 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

20 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

21 I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.

22 Thou art my hiding-place

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and my shield: I hope in thy word.

¶ 23 Depart from me, ye evil-doers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

24 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

25 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

26 Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.

27 Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.

28 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

29 I love thy commandments above gold, yea, above fine gold.

30 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right: and I hate every false way.

LESSON L.

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

2 Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

3 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.

4 Look thou upon me and be merciful unto me: as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

5 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

6 Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.

7 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: and teach me thy statutes.

8 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes: because they keep not thy law.

¶ 9 Righteous art thou, O Lord: and upright are thy judgements.

10 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

11 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

12 I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.

13 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness: and thy law is the truth.

14 Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.

15 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

¶ 16 I cried with my whole heart: hear me, O Lord, I will keep thy statutes.

17 I cried unto thee, save me: and I shall keep thy testimonies.

18 I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

19 Mine eyes prevent the night-watches: that I might meditate in thy word.

20 Hear my voice according

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unto thy loving-kindness; O Lord, quicken me according to thy judgement.

21 Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.

22 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

23 Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

24 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

25 Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.

26 Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to thy judgements.

27 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindness.

28 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgements endureth for ever.

29 I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.

30 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

31 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

¶ 32. Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.

33 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

34 I have kept thy precepts, and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.

35 Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord: give me understanding according to thy word.

36 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.

37 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.

38 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

39 Let thine hand help me: for I have chosen thy precepts.

40 I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.

41 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgements help me.

42 I have gone astray like a lost sheep: seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

SECTION IV.—*Truth and Honesty.*

LESSON LI.

As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

2 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

3 An hypocrite with his mouth

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destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

4 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

5 The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

6 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

7 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him.

8 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart,

9 Whose hatred is covered by deceit; his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.

¶ 10 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

11 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

12 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

13 He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

14 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness; but a false witness, deceit.

15 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

16 The lips of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

¶ 17 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

18 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

19 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

20 His tongue deviseth mischiefs: like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

21 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

22 A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

23 The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

24 Excellent speech becometh not a fool; much less do lying lips a prince.

25 Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.

26 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous, him shall the people curse; nations shall abhor him.

27 The mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

28 Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.

29 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

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LESSON LII.

A FALSE witness shall perish: but the man that heareth, speaketh constantly.

2 A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

3 An ungodly witness scorneth judgement, and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

4 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

5 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

6 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

¶ 7 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

8 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

9 A man that flattereth his neighbour, spreadeth a net for his feet.

10 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

11 He that rebuketh a man, afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

¶ 12 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again; he spoileth by violence, and restoreth not the pledge.

13 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul.

14 The curse of the Lord shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely.

15 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression, the same is the companion of a destroyer.

16 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue, is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

17 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgement.

18 The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

19 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

¶ 20 A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.

21 Divers weights are an abomination unto the Lord; and a false balance is not good.

22 A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

23 Divers weights and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the Lord.

24 Remove not the ancient land-mark which thy fathers have set.

25 Remove not the old landmark: and enter not into the fields of the fatherless.

26 For their Redeemer is mighty: he shall plead their cause with thee.

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SECTION V.—*Justice.*

LESSON LIII.

WHEN the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

2 It is joy to the just to do judgement: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

3 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

4 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the Most High,

5 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

6 To punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

¶ 7 A king that sitteth in the throne of judgement scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

8 The king by judgement stablisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts, overthroweth it.

9 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

10 The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

11 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together; the Lord lighteneth both their eyes.

14 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear, so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

15 The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

¶ 16 An unjust man is an abomination to the just, and he that is upright in the way, is abomination to the wicked.

17 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

18 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

¶ 19 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.

20 To do justice and judgement is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

21 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgement.

22 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

23 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

24 A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgement.

25 A man's gift maketh room

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for him, and bringeth him before great men.

¶ 26 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

27 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

28 Blessed are they that keep judgement.

29 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

30 There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

31 The righteous shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

LESSON LIV.

Ye shall judge in the fear of the Lord, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

2 Ye shall have one manner of law; as well for the stranger as for one of your own country.

3 Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

4 If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgement, the judges shall justify the righteous and condemn the wicked.

5 Ye shall not respect persons in judgement, but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgement is God's.

6 Remove violence and spoil, and execute justice and judgement: take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord.

7 The prince shall not take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of possession.

8 He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God:

9 And he shall be as the light of the morning when the sun ariseth, even as a morning without clouds, as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

10 Therefore let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do justice; for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

11 Take heed what ye do; for ye judge not for men, but for God, who is with you in judgement.

¶ 12 Samuel said unto all Israel:

13 I am old and gray-headed, and my sons are before you; and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

14 Behold, here I am; witness against me before the Lord and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? or whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it unto you.

15 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, nor taken aught of any man's hand.

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SECTION VI.—*Humanity.*

LESSON LV.

BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

¶ 2 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

3 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to-morrow I will give, when thou hast it by thee.

4 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

¶ 5 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

6 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

7 Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him.

8 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

9 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.

10 The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.

¶ 11 Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

12 He that giveth unto the poor, shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes, shall have many a curse.

13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

14 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed: for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

15 He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

16 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

17 All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

18 The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

19 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

20 A poor man that oppresseth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

21 Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

22 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

23 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

24 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth Him hath mercy on the poor.

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25 He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

¶ 26 Rob not the poor, because he is poor; neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

27 For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

28 Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of the strangers that are in thy land;

29 At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it.

30 If thy brother be waxen poor and fallen in decay with thee, then thou shalt relieve him; yea, though he be a stranger or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

¶ 31 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother: thine own friend and thy father's friend forsake not.

32 To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend.

33 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

34 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

¶ 35 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

36 The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

37 Wo unto him that causeth the blind to wander out of his way; that perverteth the judgement of the stranger, the fatherless and widow; that smiteth his neighbour secretly; or that taketh reward to slay an innocent person.

Section VII.—*Humility.*

LESSON LVI.

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

2 Every one that is proud in heart, is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

3 A high look, and a proud heart, and the ploughing of the wicked, is sin.

4 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

5 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

6 Proud and haughty scorner is his name who dealeth in proud wrath.

7 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife; but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

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8 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

9 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

10 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

¶ 11 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

12 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory, is not glory.

13 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

14 By humility and fear of the Lord are riches and honour and life.

15 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom: and before honour is humility.

16 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

17 The Lord will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

18 And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up.

19 Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

20 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

¶ 21 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

SECTION VIII.—*Industry.*

LESSON LVII.

I WENT by the field of the slothful; and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

2 And lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone-wall thereof was broken down.

3 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

¶ 4 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

5 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

6 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

7 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

8 The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty, only to want.

9 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

10 He that gathereth in sum-

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mer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

11 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

12 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

13 He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth, and spareth not.

14 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

¶ 15 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

16 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

17 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

18 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

20 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit then seven men that can render a reason.

21 The sluggard will not plough by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

22 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

23 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

24 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

¶ 25 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

26 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

27 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

28 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou rise out of thy sleep?

29 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

30 So shall thy poverty come as one that travaileth, and thy want as an armed man.

¶ 31 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds:

32 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

33 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

34 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

35 And thou shalt have goat's milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for maintenance for thy maidens.

¶ 36 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

37 There is a treasure to be desired, and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

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38 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

39 He that laboureth labourseth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

40 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

41 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

LESSON LVIII.

WHO can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

2 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

3 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

4 She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

5 She is like the merchant's ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

6 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

7 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

8 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

9 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

10 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

11 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

12 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

13 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry: her clothing is silk and purple.

14 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

15 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

16 Strength and honour are her clothing: and she shall rejoice in time to come.

17 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

18 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

19 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her:

20 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

21 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

22 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

23 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

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SECTION IX.—*Wisdom and Discretion.*

LESSON LIX.

A WISE man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

2 He that getteth wisdom, loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding, shall find good.

3 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

4 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

5 Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.

6 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

7 Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

8 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:

9 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

10 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

¶ 11 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

12 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

13 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doth not so.

14 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

15 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

16 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

17 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

18 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

19 Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him. As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

20 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

21 A tale-bearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

22 He that goeth about as a tale-bearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

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¶ 23 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

24 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

¶ 25 Delight is not seemly for a fool, much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

26 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

27 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

28 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

29 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

30 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

¶ 31 Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

32 Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?

33 With the ancient is wisdom, and in length of days, understanding. With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

34 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

¶ 35 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.

36 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

37 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

38 The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

LESSON LX.

A FOOL uttereth all his mind; but a wise man keepeth it in, till afterwards.

2 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

3 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

4 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

5 He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof, erreth.

6 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

7 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

8 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found; but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

9 Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

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10 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

11 A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

12 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

¶ 13 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

14 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

15 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

16 He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed; and that without remedy.

17 Judgements are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

18 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

19 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

20 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

21 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

22 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool, cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.

LESSON LXI.

A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

2 A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

4 As an ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

5 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

6 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

7 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

8 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

¶ 9 The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

10 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

11 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

12 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

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13 The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.

14 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

15 Whoso loveth instruction, loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

16 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

¶ 17 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

18 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth and is confident.

19 The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

20 A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

21 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

22 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

23 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

24 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

25 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

26 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

27 Every wise woman buildeth her house, but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

LESSON LXII.

THROUGH desire a man having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

3 When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters; and the well-spring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

5 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

6 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

7 Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

8 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

¶ 9 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

10 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

11 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a

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good report maketh the bones fat.

12 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

13 There is gold and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

14 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

15 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

16 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

17 As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

18 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

19 Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

20 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet, sinneth.

21 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord.

SECTION X.—*Government of the Temper.*

LESSON LXIII.

A NAUGHTY person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

2 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers.

3 Frowardness is in his heart; he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

4 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

5 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is a burning fire.

6 A froward man soweth strife, and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

7 A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

8 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

¶ 9 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

10 Wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one: wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

11 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

12 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

13 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

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14 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.

15 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

16 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

¶17 A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

18 It is better to dwell in a corner of the house-top, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

20 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife.

21 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

22 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

23 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.

24 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger: and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

25 He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.

26 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

27 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

28 Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

¶ 29 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention before it be meddled with.

30 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

31 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

32 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

33 The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

34 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

35 He that hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

36 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

¶ 37 He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

38 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

39 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

40 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where

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there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth.

41 The words of a tale-bearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

42 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.

43 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

44 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

45 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

46 The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Section XI.—*Moderation and Liberality.*

LESSON LXIV.

Three things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die.

2 Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

3 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

¶ 4 Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.

5 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

6 The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.

7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

8 The ransom of a man's life are his riches; but the poor heareth not rebuke.

9 Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

10 He that by unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

11 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

12 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

13 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

14 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle towards heaven.

15 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

16 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

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17 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

¶ 18 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

19 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

23 The liberal deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand.

24 The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

Section XII.—*Temperance.*

LESSON LXV.

Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

2 Be not amongst wine-bibbers; amongst riotous eaters of flesh:

3 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

4 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

5 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixt wine.

6 Look not thou upon wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

7 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

8 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

9 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

10 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

¶ 11 It is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes, strong drink:

12 Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.

13 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts; let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

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SECTION XIII.—*Duties of Parents and Children.*

LESSON LXVI.

MY son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

2 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

3 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

4 He that keepeth the commandment, keepeth his own soul: but he that despiseth his ways, shall die.

5 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

6 Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

7 A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

8 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice; and he that begetteth a wise child, shall have joy of him.

9 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

10 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

11 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

12 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

13 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

14 Wo unto him that setteth light by his father or his mother.

15 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

¶ 16 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

17 Chasten thy son while there is hope: and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

18 The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame.

19 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

20 Withhold not correction from thy child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

¶ 21 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

22 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

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SECTION XIV.—*Miscellaneous Proverbs.*

LESSON LXVII.

CONFIDENCE in an unfaithful man in time of trouble, is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

2 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child, shall have him become his son at the length.

3 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

¶ 4 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

5 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

6 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

7 There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw-teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

¶ 8 These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

9 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

10 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

11 A false witness that speaketh lies, and him that soweth discord among brethren.

¶ 12 It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

13 Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.

LESSON LXVIII.

A MERRY heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

2 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

3 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

4 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

5 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sórrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

6 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

7 As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre; so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

8 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

9 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

10 There is a way that seem-

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eth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

11 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

12 The fear of the Lord tendeth to life, and he that hath it shall abide satisfied: he shall not be visited with evil.

¶ 13 As cold waters to a thirsty soul; so is good news from a far country.

14 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

15 As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.

16 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

17 He that is despised and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself and lacketh bread.

18 A continual dropping in a very rainy day, and a contentious woman are alike.

19 Whosoever hideth her, hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand which bewrayeth itself.

20 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

21 Whoso keepeth the fig-tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

22 As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.

23 Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

¶ 24 There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.

26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks

27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.

28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Section XV.—*Excellency of Wisdom.*

LESSON LXIX.

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming-in at the doors.

4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be of an understanding heart.

6 Hear: for I will speak

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of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge, rather than choice gold.

11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

¶ 12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth do I hate.

14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgement:

21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

¶ 22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth: when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled; before the hills, was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world:

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth;

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

¶ 32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

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33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 For whoso findeth me, findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

LESSON LXX.

WISDOM crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

2 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

3 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

4 Turn ye at my reproof; behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

¶ 5 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

6 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

7 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

8 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

9 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

10 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.

11 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

12 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

13 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

14 But whoso hearkeneth unto me, shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

¶ 15 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

16 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

17 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

18 Length of days is in her right hand: and in her left hand riches and honour.

19 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

20 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is every one that retaineth her.

21 Wisdom excelleth folly as far as light excelleth darkness.

¶ 22 The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

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23 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

24 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

25 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

26 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

27 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

28 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

29 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

30 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

31 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

32 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

33 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

34 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

35 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

36 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

37 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

38 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:

39 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

40 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

LESSON LXXI.

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hidden treasures;

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgement, and preserveth the way of his saints.

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgement, and equity; yea, every good path.

¶ 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

11 Discretion shall preserve

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thee, understanding shall keep thee;

12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

15 Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths.

¶ 16 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

17 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

18 Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

19 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

20 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

¶ 21 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

22 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

23 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

24 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

¶ 25 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

26 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

27 For length of days, and long life, and peace shall they add to thee.

28 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck, write them upon the table of thine heart.

29 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

LESSON LXXII.

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars.

2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city;

4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

9 Give instruction to a wise

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man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

¶ 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

13 Through wisdom is an house builded, and by understanding it is established:

14 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

15 A wise man is strong: yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

16 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

17 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

18 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

19 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

¶ 20 My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes: keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 Keep my commandments and live: and my law as the apple of thine eye.

24 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

25 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

26 Whoso despiseth the word, shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment, shall be rewarded.

27 The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

28 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

LESSON LXXIII.

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

2 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

3 Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life.

4 Put away from thee a froward mouth; and perverse lips put far from thee.

5 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eye-lids look straight before thee.

6 Ponder the path of thy feet; and let all thy ways be established.

7 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

8 Apply thine heart unto in-

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struction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

9 Buy the truth and sell it not, also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

10 Let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion.

¶ 11 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge:

12 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

13 That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

14 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

15 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

16 How much better is it to get wisdom, than gold? and to get understanding, rather to be chosen than silver?

17 The high-way of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

18 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

19 Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

SECTION XVI.—*Fate of the Righteous and of the Wicked contrasted.*

LESSON LXXIV.

KNOWEST thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,

2 That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

3 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;

4 Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?

5 He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.

6 The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

7 His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.

8 His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

9 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;

10 Though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:

11 Yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him.

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12 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

13 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.

14 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.

15 Because he hath oppressed, and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;

16 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.

17 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.

18 In the fullness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.

19 He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.

20 It is drawn and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.

21 All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him: it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

22 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.

23 The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

24 This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

¶ 25 Even as I have seen, they that plough iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

26 By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.

27 For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

28 Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?

29 Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?

30 I will teach you by the hand of God: that which is with the Almighty will I not conceal.

31 Behold, all ye yourselves have seen it; why then are ye thus altogether vain?

32 This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors which they shall receive of the Almighty.

33 If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

34 Those that remain of him shall be buried in death; and his widows shall not weep.

35 Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay;

36 He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver.

37 He buildeth his house as

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a moth, and as a booth that the keeper maketh.

38 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not.

39 Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night.

40 The east-wind carrieth him away, and he departeth; and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.

41 For God shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand.

42 His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.

43 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

44 He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.

45 He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings.

46 They that come after him shall be astonished at his day, as they that went before were affrighted.

47 Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him that knoweth not God.

48 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

49 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.

50 The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.

51 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

52 The gin shall take him by the heel, and the robber shall prevail against him.

53 The snare is laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way.

54 Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.

55 His strength shall be hunger-bitten, and destruction shall be ready at his side.

56 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.

LESSON LXXV.

Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?

2 Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb.

3 So are the paths of all that forget God, and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

4 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.

5 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.

6 He is green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.

7 His roots are wrapped about the heap, and seeth the place of stones.

8 If he destroy him from his

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place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

9 Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.

¶ 10 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers.

11 I have seen the foolish taking root; but suddenly I cursed his habitation.

12 His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them.

13 He dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth which are ready to become heaps.

14 He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth:

15 He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.

¶ 16 Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompense.

17 It shall be accomplished before his time; and his branch shall not be green.

18 He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.

19 For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate; and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.

¶ 20 The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.

21 A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.

22 He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness; and he is waited for of the sword.

23 He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.

24 Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid: they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.

25 For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.

LESSON LXXVI.

Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?

2 The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him: but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

3 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

4 For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.

¶ 5 The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked; but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

6 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long.

7 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

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¶ 8 The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin;

9 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

10 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

11 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

12 The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

¶ 13 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked:

14 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

15 There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

16 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

17 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

18 Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

19 Say ye to the righteous that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

20 Wo unto the wicked; it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

21 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting-place:

22 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

23 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

24 The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

25 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

26 The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion.

27 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it:

28 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

¶ 29 The great God that formed all things, both rewardeth the fool and rewardeth transgressors.

30 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

31 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

32 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

33 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth;

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but the righteous shall see their fall.

34 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

35 Evil men understand not judgement: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.

36 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

37 Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.

38 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

39 A righteous man falling down before the wicked, is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

LESSON LXXVII.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

¶ 7 Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

8 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

9 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

10 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

11 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

12 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

13 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

14 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

15 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

16 Blessed are the undefiled in the way: who walk in the law of the Lord.

17 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies; and that seek him with the whole heart.

18 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

19 Blessed is every one that

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feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

20 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

21 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive-plants round about thy table.

22 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

¶ 23 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

24 The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

25 Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

26 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be fat and flourishing:

27 To shew that the Lord is upright: he is their rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

LESSON LXXVIII.

Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

3 They shall be as an oak that fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water.

4 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

5 Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

6 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

7 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgement as the noon-day.

8 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

9 For evil-doers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

¶ 11 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them:

12 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

13 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

14 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

15 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

16 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

17 The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

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18 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

¶ 19 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

20 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

21 And the afflicted he will save: but his eyes are upon the haughty, that he may bring them down.

22 I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

23 He is ever merciful and lendeth: and his seed is blessed.

24 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

25 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom; and his tongue talketh of judgement.

26 The law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide.

27 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

28 The Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

29 For the Lord loveth judgement, and forsaketh not his saints, they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

¶ 30 Depart from evil, and do good: and dwell for evermore.

31 Be strong, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes and his commandments and his judgements and his testimonies, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself.

32 Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

¶ 33 I have seen the wicked in great power; and spreading himself like a green bay-tree:

34 Yet he passed away, and lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

35 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.

36 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together, the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

37 But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord, he is their strength in the time of trouble.

38 And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they trust in him.

LESSON LXXIX.

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

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5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?

12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world, they increase in riches.

13 Verily, I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

16 Until I went into the sanctuary of God: then understood I their end.

17 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places; thou castedst them down into destruction,

18 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

19 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

20 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

21 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

¶ 22 O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

23 A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

24 When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

25 But thou, Lord, art most high for evermore.

26 Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good: and unto them that are upright in their hearts.

27 As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity.

28 For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

LESSON LXXX.

Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

2 Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.

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3 Thou lovest evil more than good: and lying rather than to speak righteousness.

4 Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.

5 God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling-place, and root thee out of the land of the living.

6 The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him.

7 Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength: but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

8 But I am like a green olive-tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

9 I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name, for it is good before thy saints.

LESSON LXXXI.

The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

2 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

3 The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

4 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

5 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

6 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

7 As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil, pursueth it to his own death.

8 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

9 The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.

10 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

11 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

14 A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

15 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

16 Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid.

¶17 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

18 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

19 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the

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tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

20 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

21 The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

22 Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

23 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

24 In the way of righteousness is life, and in the path-way thereof there is no death.

25 The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

26 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

27 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

28 The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

29 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

30 The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him: but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

31 The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

32 The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

33 He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

34 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

35 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

36 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and he that winneth souls is wise.

37 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

38 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

39 They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

40 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

41 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

42 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

43 When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

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44 The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.

45 When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

46 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

47 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

SECTION XVII.—*Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher.*

LESSON LXXXII.

THE words of the Preacher, Solomon, the son of David, king of Jerusalem.

2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

4 One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full: unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

8 All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time which was before us.

11 There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come, with those that shall come after.

¶ 12 I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have

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gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

18 For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge, increaseth sorrow.

LESSON LXXXIII.

I SAID in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and behold, this also is vanity.

2 I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine (yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom); and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle, above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men-singers and women-singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired, I kept not from them; I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

¶ 12 And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.

13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly as far as light excelleth darkness.

14 The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

16 For there is no remem-

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brance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is, in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

¶ 18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man, or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.

21 For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity, and a great evil.

22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

23 For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief: yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

¶ 24 There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

25 For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto more than I?

26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

LESSON LXXXIV.

To every thing there is a season; and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

¶ 9 What profit hath he that worketh, in that wherein he laboureth?

10 I have seen the travail

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which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

14 I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

¶ 16 And moreover, I saw under the sun the place of judgement, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.

17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose, and for every work.

18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

19 For that which befalleth the sons of men, befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

22 Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

LESSON LXXXV.

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold, the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

2 Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead, more than the living which are yet alive.

3 Yea, better than both they is he which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

¶ 4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

5 The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

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6 Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

¶ 7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

8 There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

¶ 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth: for he hath not another to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

¶ 13 Better is a poor and a wise child, than an old and foolish king who will no more be admonished.

14 For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor.

15 I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead.

16 There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

LESSON LXXXVI.

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business: and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities; but fear thou God.

¶ 8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgement and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth, and there be higher than they.

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¶ 9 Moreover, the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase. This is also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

12 The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

13 There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour which he may carry away in his hand.

16 And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

17 All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun, all the days of his life which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.

LESSON LXXXVII.

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:

2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

¶ 3 If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he.

4 For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.

5 Moreover, he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other.

¶ 6 Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet

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hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

7 All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

8 For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?

¶ 9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

10 That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

¶ 11 Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?

12 For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

LESSON LXXXVIII.

A GOOD name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning: but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity.

¶ 7 Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad, and a gift destroyeth the heart.

8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

10 Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.

¶ 11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

12 For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight which he hath made crooked?

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful; but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a

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wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.

16 Be not righteous over-much; neither make thyself over-wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

17 Be not over-much wicked; neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

18 It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

20 For there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not.

21 Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee.

22 For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

¶ 23 All this have I proved by wisdom; I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.

24 That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

26 And I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares, and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

27 Behold, this have I found, (saith the Preacher,) counting one by one to find out the account; which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

28 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

LESSON LXXXIX.

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

2 I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.

3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing: for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgement.

¶ 6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgement; therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power

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in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

9 All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

10 And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: This is also vanity.

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

¶ 14 There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked: again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous. I said, that this also is vanity.

15 Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.

¶ 16 When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)

17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun; because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further, though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

LESSON XC.

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

2 All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.

3 This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

¶ 4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope:

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for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

7 ¶ Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might: for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest.

¶ 11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong; neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

¶ 13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:

14 There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city: yet no man remembered that same poor man.

16 Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

17 The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

LESSON XCI.

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart is at his left.

3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place: for yielding pacifieth great offences.

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5 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

9 Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment, and a babbler is no better.

12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself:

13 The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness; and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

14 A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

15 The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

¶ 16 Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning.

17 Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness.

¶ 18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth, and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

¶ 19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

¶ 20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bed-chamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

LESSON XCII.

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight: for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child; even so thou knowest not the works of God, who maketh all.

6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening with-

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hold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

¶ 7 Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:

8 But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all: yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.

¶ 9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thine heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgement.

10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

LESSON XCIII.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain;

3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease, because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened:

4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low; and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high; and fears shall be in the way; and the almond-tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

¶ 8 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher: all is vanity.

9 And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¶ 13 Let us hear the conclu-

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sion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

SECTION XVIII.—*Trust in God.*

LESSON XCIV.

THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

¶ 7 The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

8 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

9 I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: the Lord is my portion, therefore will I hope in him.

10 I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

11 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

12 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption.

13 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

¶ 14 I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

15 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

16 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

17 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

18 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

19 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

20 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

21 They looked unto him, and were lightened; and their faces were not ashamed.

¶ 22 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

23 The young lions do lack,

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and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

24 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

¶ 25 The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

26 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

27 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

28 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

29 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

30 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgement cometh from the Lord.

31 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.

32 When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

LESSON XCV.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and see the reward of the wicked.

¶ 9 Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and the adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

¶ 14 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

15 Take heed, and be quiet: fear not, neither be faint-hearted.

16 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

17 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

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18 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

19 For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

¶ 20 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

21 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

22 Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

23 Are the consolations of God small with thee? mourn not, nor weep: neither be thou sorry, for the joy of the Lord is thy strength.

24 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

25 Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded, for thou shalt not be put to shame.

26 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

27 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

28 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

29 The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

30 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.

LESSON XCVI.

THUS saith the Lord, Woe unto the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord:

2 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land, and not inhabited.

3 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is:

4 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh: but her leaf shall be green, and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

5 For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee.

6 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

7 Fear not: I will help thee, saith the Lord and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

8 Because thou hast set thy love upon me, therefore will I deliver thee: I will set thee on high, because thou hast known my name.

9 Thou shalt call upon me, and I will answer thee: I will be with thee in trouble; I will deliver thee, and honour thee.

10 With long life will I sa-

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tisfy thee, and shew thee my salvation.

11 Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

12 I will deliver thee, and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid: I will surely deliver thee, because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the Lord.

¶ 13 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

14 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law which I have commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand nor to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

15 And thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

¶ 16 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

17 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

18 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah-tree, and the myrtle, and the oil-tree; I will set in the desert the fir-tree, and the pine, and the box-tree together:

19 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

¶ 20 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law: fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

21 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

22 Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

23 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

24 And forgettest the Lord thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

25 The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail.

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26 But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The Lord of hosts is my name.

27 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

LESSON XCVII.

O Lord God of our fathers, art thou not God in heaven? and rulest thou not over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

2 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help, and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong: but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord.

3 Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evil-doers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

4 Now the Egyptians are men and not God, and their horses flesh and not spirit: when the Lord shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

5 For thus hath the Lord spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the Lord of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.

6 As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it, and passing over he will preserve it.

7 There is none like unto the God of Jeshurim, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency in the sky.

8 Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of a great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

9 The Lord is the shield of thy help and the sword of thy excellency.

10 The Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's.

¶ 11 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

12 But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord, which exercise loving-kindness, judgement, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

13 I say, sayest thou (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for war;

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now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

14 Lo, thou trustest in the staff of a broken reed; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it.

15 But if thou say to me, We trust in the Lord our God; I am with thee, to save thee, and to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

16 And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

17 And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thine heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

18 I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee.

¶ 19 When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee: but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain.

20 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee, he will not fail thee nor forsake thee.

21 And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee, he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

22 The Lord thy God bare thee as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went.

23 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath thee are the everlasting arms.

24 The God of thy father shall help thee, and the Almighty shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, and of the deep that lieth under.

25 The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

26 Thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel; Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

27 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and when through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

28 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy saviour.

LESSON XCVIII.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

3 Though the waters thereof roar, and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city

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of God; the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

¶ 8 The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

9 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

10 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

11 The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him: and all the upright in heart shall glory.

12 Their redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name.

13 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and their heart shall live that seek God.

14 For the Lord heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

15 Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas and every thing that moveth therein.

16 Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.

17 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

18 For thou art the glory of their strength; and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted.

19 For the Lord is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

20 This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

21 They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

22 As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people; from henceforth even for ever.

¶ 23 The Lord is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgement and righteousness.

24 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of our times, and the strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is our treasure.

25 The Lord of hosts shall be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty unto the residue of his people.

26 And for a spirit of judgement to him that sitteth in judgement, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

27 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day-time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

28 At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.

29 Surely, shall one say, in

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the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come, and shall stay themselves upon the God of Israel; the Lord of hosts is his name.

30 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun: when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

31 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.

32 The Lord hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.

¶ 33 Now know I that the Lord saveth his servant: he will hear him from his holy heaven, with the saving strength of his right hand.

34 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.

35 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

36 They are brought down and fallen; we are risen and stand upright.

37 Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

38 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for he giveth his beloved sleep.

39 The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it: yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

¶ 40 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory; for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

41 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?

42 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he pleased.

43 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

44 They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not:

45 They have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not:

46 They have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they walk not; neither speak they through their throat.

47 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

48 O Israel, trust thou in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.

49 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.

50 Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.

51 The Lord hath been mindful of us: he will bless us: he will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron.

52 He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great.

53 The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

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54 Ye are blessed of the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

55 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

LESSON XCIX.

I WAITED patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

4 Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust: and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee.

6 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him.

7 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

¶ 8 Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

9 I cried to thee, O Lord; and unto the Lord I made my supplication.

10 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; let such as love thy salvation, say continually, The Lord be magnified.

11 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

12 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

¶ 13 For the Lord God will help me, therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

14 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

15 Behold, the Lord God will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? Lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

¶ 16 Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

17 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

¶ 18 Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

19 For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the

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lofty city he layeth it low: he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust.

20 The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy.

21 Yea, in the way of thy judgements, O Lord, have we waited for thee: the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

22 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

23 Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord.

24 Lord, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people.

¶ 25 Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

26 Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

27 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

28 Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

29 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth: we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

30 Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever: for the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

31 The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

32 Judah sought him with their whole desire, and he was found of them; and the Lord gave them rest round about them.

33 Happy art thou, O Israel; who is like unto thee, O people? saved by the Lord, the shield of thine help, and the sword of thine excellency!

LESSON C.

I WILL love thee, O Lord my strength.

2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.

¶ 6 Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

7 Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer that goeth not out of feigned lips.

8 Let my sentence come

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forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

9 Thou hast proved mine heart, thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

10 By the word of thy lips, I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

11 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

12 I have called upon thee; for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

13 Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee, from those that rise up against them.

14 Keep me as the apple of thine eye: hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

15 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

16 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

17 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

18 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

19 Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

20 I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.

21 I laid me down and slept; I awaked: for the Lord sustained me.

22 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that have set themselves against me round about.

23 The Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

24 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause.

25 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: he also shall be my salvation.

26 Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine; though the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls;

27 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

28 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

29 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

30 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war, from the power of the sword.

31 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue; neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

32 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt

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thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

33 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

34 Behold, he that keepeth Israel, shall neither slumber nor sleep.

35 The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

36 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

37 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

38 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth, and even for evermore.

39 The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

40 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

41 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that trust in the Lord.

42 The Lord bless you, and keep you!

43 The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you!

44 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace!

LESSON CI.

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.

2 Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

3 Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

5 For thou art my hope, O Lord God; thou art my trust from my youth.

6 In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust, let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

7 Bow down thine ear to me, deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.

8 For thou art my rock and my fortress: therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

9 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercy's sake.

¶ 10 Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

11 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee, for thou wilt answer me.

12 Thou which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

13 Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

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14 I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel!

15 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

16 My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long.

17 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

18 I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge, and my portion in the land of the living.

19 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thy right hand shall save me.

20 The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

¶ 21 Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

22 The Lord is my strength, and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I praise him.

23 The Lord is my strength, and is become my salvation.

24 The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly.

25 The right hand of the Lord is exalted: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly.

26 The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

27 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

28 I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.

29 Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.

30 Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.

31 O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste for my help.

32 I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

33 My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day: for I know not the numbers thereof.

34 I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

35 O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

36 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not: until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

LESSON CII.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirst-

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eth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2 To see thy power, and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

3 Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night-watches.

7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

9 Thou drewedst near in the day that I called upon thee.

10 The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

11 The Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

¶ 12 Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee; yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

13 I will cry unto God most high: unto God that performeth all things for me.

14 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

15 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

16 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

17 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.

18 As for me and my house, we will fear the Lord.

19 I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

20 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

21 As for me, I will call upon God: and the Lord shall save me.

22 Evening and morning, and at noon will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice.

¶ 23 There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

24 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

25 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

26 Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

27 Behold, we are in thine hand; as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do.

28 Art thou not our God?

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therefore we will wait upon thee, for thou hast made all things.

LESSON CIII.

UNTO thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens!

2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

3 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

4 Whom have I in heaven, but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.

5 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

6 Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy; because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

7 For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

¶ 8 My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from him.

9 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

10 In God is my salvation, and my glory: the rock of my strength and my refuge is in God.

11 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

12 Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

13 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

¶ 14 God hath spoken once, twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

15 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

16 Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

17 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

18 I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgement for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

19 For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. Thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

¶ 20 Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.

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21 In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul.

22 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

23 Let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for very great are his mercies; but let me not fall into the hand of man.

24 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

25 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

26 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

27 In God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

28 Let them now that fear the Lord say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

29 I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place.

30 The Lord is on my side, I will not fear. What can man do unto me?

31 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

32 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

33 Out of the mouth of the Most High proceedeth not evil and good?

¶ 34 Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my tru st.

35 O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;

36 But to the saints that are in the earth and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

37 Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

38 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

39 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

40 O how great is thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men!

41 O Lord, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou our arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.

LESSON CIV.

I LOVE the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

4 Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

5 Gracious is the Lord and righteous: yea, our God is merciful.

6 Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

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7 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we trusted in his holy name.

8 Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

9 I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

10 My times are in thy hand; make thy face to shine upon thy servant; save me, for thy mercies' sake.

11 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

12 O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

13 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

14 I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people;

15 In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the Lord.

16 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

¶ 17 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

18 Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

19 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

20 By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea.

¶ 21 A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.

22 O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from thee shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters.

23 Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

24 Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the Lord? let it come now.

25 As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: thou knowest; that which came out of my lips was right before thee.

26 Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil. Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

LESSON CV.

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy.

2 Preserve my soul, O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

4 Rejoice the soul of thy ser-

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vant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 O turn unto me and have mercy upon me: give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

6 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

7 I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the Lord.

8 I will be glad, and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

9 And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

¶ 10 Lord, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

11 In the day when I cried, thou answeredst me and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

12 Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

13 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

14 He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

15 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

16 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips, I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

17 I remember the days of old, I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

18 Every one that is godly shall pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found.

19 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

20 It is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

21 Mine eyes are ever towards the Lord: for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

22 In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me. I trusted in thee, O Lord; I said, Thou art my God.

23 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

24 For thou art my lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness.

25 O Lord, my strength and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction; thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

26 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

27 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

28 My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.

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29 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

30 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet; and setteth me upon high places.

31 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

32 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

33 The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

34 Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

35 Let them shout for joy, and be glad: for their redeemer is mighty: he shall plead their cause.

Section XIX.—*Penitence.*

LESSON CVI.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done evil in thy sight;

5 That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear of joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

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¶ 18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

19 I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.

20 I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

21 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path.

22 I said, Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

23 O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

24 My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me:

25 For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity: for it is great.

26 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

¶ 27 Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

28 And I said, my strength and my hope is perished from the Lord;

29 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

30 My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

31 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

¶ 32 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

33 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

34 The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

35 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

36 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him.

37 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

38 He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him; he is filled full with reproach.

39 For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

40 For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

41 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

42 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

43 Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.

44 We have transgressed and have rebelled: the crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us that we have sinned.

45 For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

46 Wherefore, O Lord, dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

47 Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned: renew our days as of old.

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LESSON CVII.

As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me; for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God; with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy day.

5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

6 Deep calleth unto deep, at the noise of thy water-spouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

7 Yet the Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day-time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

8 I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

9 As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me: while they said daily unto me, Where is thy God?

10 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.

11 For thou art the God of my strength; why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

12 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

13 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God, my God.

14 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

LESSON CVIII.

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

2 For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thine hand presseth me sore.

3 There is no soundness in my flesh, because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones, because of my sin.

4 For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

5 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly: I go mourning all the day long.

6 I am feeble and sore bro-

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ken; I have cried by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

¶ 7 Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

8 My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

9 My lovers and my friends stand aloof from me; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

10 As a deaf man, I heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth.

11 Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

12 For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me.

13 I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

14 For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

15 Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

16 For innumerable evils have compassed me about; mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up: they are more than the hairs of mine head; therefore my heart faileth me.

17 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me: O Lord, make haste to help me.

18 Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me.

19 Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

¶ 20 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.

21 Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call, answer me speedily.

22 For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burnt as a hearth.

23 My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.

24 By reason of the voice of my groaning, my bones cleave to my skin.

25 I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

26 I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house-top.

27 For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping.

28 When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me.

¶ 29 Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.

30 Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise:

31 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

32 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

33 And I said, O that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

34 Lo then would I wander

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far off, and remain in the wilderness:

35 I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.

LESSON CIX.

O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

2 Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;

3 For my soul is full of trouble, and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am as a man that hath no strength.

5 Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand.

6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.

7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves.

8 Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

9 Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.

10 Help me, O Lord my God: O save me, according to thy mercy:

11 That they may know that this is thy hand: that thou, Lord, hast done it.

12 Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

¶13 Save me, O God: for the waters are come in unto my soul.

14 I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.

15 Let not the water-flood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

16 Hear me, O Lord; for thy loving-kindness is good: turn unto me, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies:

17 And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

18 Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it.

19 Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour.

20 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

¶21 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

22 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses.

23 Look upon mine affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.

24 O keep my soul and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

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25 I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, make no tarrying.

26 I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high.

27 But I am a worm, and no man: a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

28 All they that see me, laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

29 He trusted on the Lord, that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

30 Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission;

31 Till the Lord look down, and behold from heaven.

32 My prayer is unto thee, O Lord, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

LESSON CX.

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me?

2 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not; and in the night-season, and am not silent.

3 How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

4 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?

5 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death: how long, Lord, wilt thou hide thyself?

6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee as a thirsty land. My spirit is overwhelmed within me: my heart within me is desolate.

7 Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

8 Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice when I cry unto thee.

9 Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength.

10 Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

11 But unto thee have I cried, O Lord; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

12 Lord, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me?

13 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

14 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O Lord, how long?

15 Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: O save me for thy mercies' sake.

16 Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

17 But do thou for me, O God the Lord, for thy name's

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sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.

18 For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.

¶ 19 Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies, and thy loving-kindnesses: for they have been ever of old.

20 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

21 I cried unto God with my voice; even unto God with my voice: and he gave ear unto me.

22 In the day of trouble I sought the Lord; my soul refused to be comforted.

23 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed.

24 Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

25 I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.

26 Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity: for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.

27 The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer.

¶ 28 I called upon thy name, O Lord, out of the low dungeon.

29 Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.

30 Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

31 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul: thou hast redeemed my life.

32 O Lord, the Hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed.

33 Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed: save me, and I shall be saved.

LESSON CXI.

O my God, I am ashamed, and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

2 Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day.

3 And now, grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God; for our God hath not forsaken us, but hath extended mercy unto us.

4 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets.

5 And after all that is come upon us, for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us deliverance:

6 Should we again break thy commandments, wouldest thou not be angry with us, till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor escaping?

7 O Lord God of Israel, thou

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art righteous, for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee.

¶ 8 I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepest covenant and mercy for them that love thee, and observe thy commandments:

9 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night.

10 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgements which thou commandedst.

11 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

12 But if ye return unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

13 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, who desireth to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant, and grant him mercy.

14 Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

15 And enter not into judgement with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

¶ 16 Remember me, O my God, and spare me, according to the greatness of thy mercy.

17 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

18 Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.

19 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant.

20 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

21 The Lord is righteous, for I have rebelled against his commandments.

22 How many are mine iniquities and sins! make me to know my transgression, and my sin.

23 I have sinned greatly; but now, I beseech thee do away the iniquity of thy servant.

¶ 24 I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me: out of the depths cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

25 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

26 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet will I look again toward thy holy temple.

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27 The waters compassed me about even to the soul, the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

28 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains: the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.

29 When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

30 Surely after that I turned, I repented, and after that I was instructed: I was ashamed; yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

31 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed: salvation is of the Lord.

LESSON CXII.

O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

2 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgements;

3 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

4 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of face, because of our trespass that we have trespassed against thee.

5 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

6 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us.

7 The Lord our God is righteous in all his works that he doeth: but we have not obeyed his voice; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

8 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine on thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

9 O my God, incline thine ear and hear; open thine eyes and behold our desolation; for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies.

10 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do.

11 For since the beginning of the world, we have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what thou hast prepared for him that waiteth for thee.

12 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth, for we have sinned.

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13 For we are all as an unclean thing; and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;

14 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us because of our iniquities.

15 But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter, and we all are the work of thy hand.

16 Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.

¶ 17 O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased: O turn thyself to us again.

18 Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof, for it shaketh.

19 Wherefore hidest thou thy face? and forgettest our affliction and our oppression?

20 For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth.

21 Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercy's sake.

22 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

23 O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

¶ 24 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

25 Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul loathed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold, trouble.

26 We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.

27 Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

28 Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art thou not he, O Lord our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

29 O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, deliver us, for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against thee.

30 O the Hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble; why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man, that turneth aside to tarry for a night?

31 Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name: leave us not.

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32 Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee: according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die.

LESSON CXIII.

Come, and let us return unto the Lord; for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days will he revive us; in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4 We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.

5 O Lord our God, other lords besides thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name.

6 Pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

7 We have sinned; do thou unto us whatever seemeth good unto thee.

¶ 8 A voice was heard upon the high places; weeping, and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the Lord their God.

9 And they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after covetousness.

10 And lo, thou art to them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice; for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

¶ 11 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the Lord our God.

12 Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel.

13 For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

14 Return unto the Lord your God; for ye have fallen by your iniquity.

15 Turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously, for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

16 Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.

17 Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you? Are there not with you, even with you, sins against the Lord your God?

¶ 18 God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

19 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judge-

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ment, and wait on thy God continually.

20 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

21 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

22 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

23 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

24 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

25 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

26 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up: and he shall save the humble person.

¶ 27 Lord, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

28 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

29 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

30 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

31 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from any sin?

32 Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more.

33 That which I see not, teach thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do it no more.

34 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

35 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

36 Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

LESSON CXIV.

Hear ye, and give ear, be not proud: for the Lord hath spoken.

2 Give glory to the Lord your God, before he cause the darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

3 Hath a nation changed their gods? which are yet no gods; but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.

4 Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord.

5 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

6 O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved: how long shall

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thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

7 In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.

8 Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.

9 In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood.

10 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

11 Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.

12 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee.

13 Know therefore and see, that it is an evil thing and bitter that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts.

14 I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

15 Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the Lord have spoken it, and will do it.

¶ 16 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

17 Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee; O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me.

18 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

19 And my eyes shall be open, and my ears attent unto their prayer.

20 But my people would not hearken to my voice: and Israel would none of me.

21 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

22 O that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways.

23 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

24 And I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them and of their children after them:

25 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

26 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

¶ 27 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God; cor-

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rupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

28 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand; that did seek God.

29 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

30 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgement in their goings: they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

¶ 31 Therefore is judgement far from us, neither doth justice overtake us; we wait for light, but behold obscurity: we look for judgement, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

32 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them:

33 In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

34 And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

35 Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgement.

LESSON CXV.

Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower.

3 The land shall be utterly emptied and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.

4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away; the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof: because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

7 The Lord hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation.

8 The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merry-hearted do sigh.

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9 The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth.

10 They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.

11 There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone.

12 In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

13 The Lord our God hath put us to silence, and given us waters of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the Lord.

14 We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold, trouble!

¶ 15 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

16 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

¶ 17 If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands towards him:

18 If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

19 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear.

20 Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away.

21 And thine age shall be clearer than the noon-day; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

22 And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt take thy rest in safety.

23 Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid.

24 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape; and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.

¶ 25 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

26 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God, more than burnt-offerings.

¶ 27 Hear, O heavens; and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

28 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

29 Why is this people slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

30 I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright; no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into battle.

31 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed

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times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming: but my people know not the judgement of the Lord.

32 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain he made it.

33 When I called, ye did not answer: when I spake, ye did not hear, but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

34 Therefore thus saith the Lord God: Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

35 Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

36 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

37 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God: and your sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear.

38 Therefore ye shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

SECTION XX.—*Frailty of Man.*

LESSON CXVI.

LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him? or the son of man, that thou makest account of him?

2 Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.

3 What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

4 And that thou shouldest visit him every morning? and try him every moment?

¶ 5 Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

6 Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all it is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.

7 I have sinned: what shall I do unto thée, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?

8 As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work:

9 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

10 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full

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of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

11 Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro, and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

12 If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself:

13 I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.

14 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust, and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

15 Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth?

16 Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days?

17 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about.

18 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?

19 There is none that can deliver out of thine hand.

¶20 Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

21 Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand-breadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

22 My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

23 I am gone like the shadow that declineth, I am tossed up and down as a locust.

24 Surely every man walketh in a vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

25 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity.

26 Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish.

27 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.

28 Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.

29 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

30 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

31 O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

32 And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.

LESSON CXVII.

Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.

2 In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men,

3 Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake.

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4 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:

5 It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying;

6 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his Maker?

7 Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:

8 How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth!

9 They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it.

10 Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.

11 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

12 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

13 Behold, even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight:

14 How much less man, that is a worm; and the son of man, which is a worm.

15 What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

¶16 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

17 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?

18 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgement?

19 Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?

20 If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him?

21 If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?

22 Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art; and thy righteousness may profit the son of man.

23 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

24 How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him?

25 Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my Judge.

26 If I had called, and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.

27 For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgement.

¶28 How should man be just with God?

29 If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

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30 He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

31 If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgement, who shall set me a time to plead?

32 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me; if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

33 Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul; I would despise my life.

LESSON CXVIII.

Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker: let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth: shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

2 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lifted it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.

3 Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked? and to princes, Ye are ungodly?

4 How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor! for they all are the work of his hands.

5 In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.

¶ 6 Who hath given him a charge over the earth, or who hath disposed the whole world?

7 If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

8 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

9 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him:

10 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

11 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

12 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

¶ 13 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground:

14 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

15 And behold, at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not.

16 All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field.

17 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

18 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

¶ 19 O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

20 Man doth not live by bread

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only; but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

21 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

22 For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing:

23 Because our days upon earth are a shadow.

24 For we spend our years as a tale that is told.

25 The days of our years are threescore years and ten: and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

LESSON CXIX.

The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

2 And thou sayest in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

3 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth.

4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

5 Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so art thou in my hand.

6 Wilt thou disannul my judgement? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

7 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

8 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency, and array thyself with glory and beauty:

9 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him:

10 Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low: and tread down the wicked in their place:

11 Hide them in the dust together, and bind their faces in secret:

12 Then will I also confess unto thee, that thine own right hand can save thee.

¶ 13 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help.

14 I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities?

15 My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he is flesh.

16 Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

17 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

18 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth: in that very day his thoughts perish.

19 There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

20 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

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21 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

23 Vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

24 Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God?

25 There is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord.

26 Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men.

27 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up:

28 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

SECTION XXI.—*Of Death.*

LESSON CXX.

MAN that is born of a woman, is of few days, and full of trouble.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

3 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee; thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.

4 Turn from him that he may rest, till he shall accomplish as an hireling his day.

5 For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.

6 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground:

7 Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

8 But man dieth and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

9 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth, and drieth up:

10 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

¶11 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

12 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

13 Remember how short my time is: my days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

14 O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.

15 The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more;

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thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.

16 My days are swifter than a post: they flee away; they see no good.

17 They are passed away, as the swift ships; as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.

18 My days are passed, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart.

19 They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness.

20 If I wait, the grave is my house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

21 I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother and my sister.

22 And where is now my hope? as for my hope who shall see it?

23 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.

24 Are not my days few? Behold, I go whence I shall not return, even unto the land of darkness, and the shadow of death.

25 A land of darkness, as darkness itself, and of the shadow of death without any order, and where the light is as darkness.

LESSON CXXI.

Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

2 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

3 One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.

4 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.

5 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.

6 There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest.

7 There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

8 The small and great are there; and the servant is free from his master.

9 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.

10 All go unto one place, all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

11 Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.

12 And surely the mountain falling cometh to naught: and the rock is removed out of his place.

13 The waters wear the stones: thou washest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth, and thou destroyest the hope of man.

14 Thou prevailest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance and sendest him away.

15 His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

16 For what pleasure hath

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he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?

17 As the cloud is consumed, and vanisheth away; so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

18 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

19 He shall be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.

20 The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as there are innumerable before him.

¶ 21 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

22 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

23 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

24 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

25 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling-places to all generations: they call their lands after their own names.

26 Nevertheless, man being in honour, abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

27 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings.

28 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave, from their dwelling.

¶ 29 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased.

30 For when he dieth, he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

31 Though whilst he lived, he blessed his soul; and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

32 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

33 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

34 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.

LESSON CXXII.

I SAID in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

2 I said, I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

3 Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off, like a weaver, my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness; from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

4 I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even

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to night wilt thou make an end of me.

5 Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove; mine eyes fail with looking upward: O Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me.

6 What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

7 O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live.

8 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

9 For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

10 Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee?

11 Shall thy loving-kindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction?

12 Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

13 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

14 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing; neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

15 Also their love and their hatred and their envy is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is under the sun.

16 The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.

17 For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

LESSON CXXIII.

The Lord saith, Son of man, behold I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke;

2 Yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

3 Forbear to cry; make no mourning for the dead.

4 The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart; and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

5 They shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

6 I will ransom them from the power of the grave: I will redeem them from death.

¶ 7 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

8 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlast-

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ing life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

9 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.

10 Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

¶ 11 For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

12 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

13 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me.

Book III.—Lyrical and Prophetical Pieces.

Section I.—*Psalms of Praise.*

LESSON CXXIV.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

2 When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers: the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;

3 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

4 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

5 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

6 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

7 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

¶ 8 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

9 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

10 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

11 Ye that fear the Lord, praise him: all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

12 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him: but when he cried unto him, he heard.

13 My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

14 The meek shall eat, and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: their heart shall live for ever.

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15 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

16 For the kingdom is the Lord's; and he is the governor among the nations.

¶ 17 Let the people praise thee, O God: let all the people praise thee.

18 Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

19 God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

20 For thou, Lord, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

¶ 21 Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

22 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

23 Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

24 Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

25 While I live, will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

26 My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.

27 The Lord was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the Lord.

28 We will bless the Lord from this time forth, and for evermore: praise the Lord.

LESSON CXXV.

I WILL praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High.

3 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving: I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude.

4 I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

5 For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

6 I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the Lord most high.

7 And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

8 I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning; for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.

9 Unto thee, O my Strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

10 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

¶ 11 I will praise thee, O

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Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

12 For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

13 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

14 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.

15 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

¶ 16 O God, my heart is fixed, I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

17 Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.

18 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

19 Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation.

20 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

21 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

22 I will sing of mercy and judgement: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

23 I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

24 Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

25 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required.

26 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me;

27 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

28 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.

29 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving-kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

30 And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

¶ 31 The heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints.

32 Let all those that seek thee rejoice, and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

33 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

34 Blessed be the Lord, who

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daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.

35 He that is our God, is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death.

¶ 36 God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us.

37 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

38 Let the people praise thee, O God: let all the people praise thee.

39 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

40 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and Amen.

LESSON CXXVI.

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

3 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.

4 They go from strength to strength; every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

5 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob.

6 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

7 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand: I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

8 For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

9 O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

¶ 10 One thing have I desired of the Lord; that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

11 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

12 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

13 We took sweet counsel together, and walked into the house of God in company.

14 We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.

15 Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts.

¶ 16 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

17 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great king.

18 God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

19 Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

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20 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary; and bless the Lord.

21 We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

22 The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

23 O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard;

24 Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

25 Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

26 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

27 Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

28 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

29 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

30 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting and to everlasting. Amen, and amen.

LESSON CXXVII.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

2 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

3 His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

7 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

8 Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

9 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord the King.

¶ 10 O come let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

11 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

12 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

13 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

14 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

15 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts

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with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

16 For the Lord is good: his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

¶17 O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

18 For his merciful kindness is great towards us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.

19 Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

20 Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgement, seek righteousness, seek meekness.

21 Let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

22 O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things:

23 Sing unto the Lord, praise ye the Lord: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evil-doers.

24 Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely.

¶ 25 Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

26 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

27 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

28 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

29 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.

30 He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

31 Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps;

32 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars;

33 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl;

34 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth;

35 Both young men and maidens; old men and children:

36 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

¶ 37 Praise ye the Lord, praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

38 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

39 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

40 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

41 Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals.

42 Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

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LESSON CXXVIII.

PRAISE ye the Lord: praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

2 Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised.

4 The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

5 Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

6 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

7 Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth; ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

8 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing; let them shout from the top of the mountains.

9 Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands.

10 Sing, O ye heavens; shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains; O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going-down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles: and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts.

¶12 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

13 He is the Lord our God, his judgements are in all the earth.

14 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

15 Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

16 Save us, O God of our salvation, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.

17 Blessed be the Lord for ever and ever; he hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

LESSON CXXIX.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever:

4 To him who alone doeth great wonders; to him that by wisdom made the heavens; to him that stretched out the earth above the waters:

5 To him that made great lights; the sun to rule by day;

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the moon and stars to rule by night:

6 To him that smote Egypt in their first-born; and brought out Israel from among them; with a strong hand, and with a stretched-out arm:

7 To him which divided the Red sea into parts; and made Israel to pass through the midst of it; but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:

8 To him which led his people through the wilderness:

9 To him which smote great kings; and slew famous kings; and gave their land for an heritage, even an heritage unto Israel his servant:

10 Who remembered us in our low estate; and hath redeemed us from our enemies:

11 Who giveth food to all flesh:

12 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

SECTION II.—*Historical Poems and Orations.*

LESSON CXXX.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgements of his mouth.

6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the Lord our God: his judgements are in all the earth.

8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations:

9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant;

11 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

12 When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.

13 When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people:

14 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes;

15 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

16 Moreover, he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

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18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron.

19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.

20 The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:

22 To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.

23 Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

24 And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies.

25 He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilely with his servants.

26 He sent Moses his servant; and Aaron whom he had chosen:

27 They shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

28 He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.

29 He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.

30 Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.

31 He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

32 He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

33 He smote their vines also, and their fig-trees; and brake the trees of their coasts.

34 He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number,

35 And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.

36 He smote also all the first-born in their land, the chief of all their strength.

37 He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

38 Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them.

39 He spread a cloud for a covering: and fire, to give light in the night.

40 The people asked, and he brought quails; and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.

43 And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:

44 And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;

45 That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the Lord.

LESSON CXXXI.

Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Who can utter the mighty

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acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all his praise?

3 Blessed are they that keep judgement, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation:

5 That I may see the good of thy chosen; that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation; that I may glory with thine inheritance.

6 We have sinned with our fathers: we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt, they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.

8 Nevertheless, he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths as through the wilderness.

10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

¶ 13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the Lord.

17 The earth opened, and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burnt up the wicked.

19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molten image.

20 Thus they changed their Glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.

21 They forgat God their Saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.

23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses, his chosen, stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath lest he should destroy them.

24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land: they believed not his word:

25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.

26 Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness;

27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.

28 They joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

29 Thus they provoked him

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to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them.

30 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgement: and so the plague was stayed.

31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.

32 They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:

33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them:

35 But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

36 And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.

37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,

38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

39 Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

40 And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them.

41 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.

42 Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel; and were brought low for their iniquity.

43 Nevertheless, he regarded their affliction when he heard their cry.

44 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

45 He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

46 Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

47 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord.

LESSON CXXXII.

Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he com-

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manded our fathers that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born: who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

9 The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

10 They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

11 And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through, and he made the waters stand as an heap.

14 In the day-time also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

15 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths.

16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

17 And they sinned yet more against him, by provoking the Most High in the wilderness.

18 And they tempted God in their heart, by asking meat for their lust.

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

21 Therefore the Lord heard this, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;

22 Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

26 He caused an east-wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south-wind.

27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea.

28 And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations.

29 So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

30 They were not estranged from their lust: but while their meat was yet in their mouths,

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31 The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.

32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

33 Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble.

34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and inquired early after God.

35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

36 Nevertheless, they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.

37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they steadfast in his covenant.

38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

42 They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.

43 How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

44 And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

45 He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

46 He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust.

47 He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore-trees with frost.

48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunder-bolts.

49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.

50 He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

51 And smote all the first-born in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

52 But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

53 And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

54 And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased.

55 He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

56 Yet they tempted and

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provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

62 He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

63 The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.

64 Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.

65 Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouted by reason of wine.

66 And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

67 Moreover, he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim;

68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

69 And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

70 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheep-folds:

71 From following the ewes great with young, he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.

LESSON CXXXIII.

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old:

2 How thou didst drive out the heathen with thine hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out.

3 For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance; because thou hadst a favour unto them.

¶4 When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;

5 Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

6 The sea saw it, and fled; Jordan was driven back.

7 The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

8 What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

9 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?

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10 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

11 Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

LESSON CXXXIV.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim, and Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

6 Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

9 Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.

10 The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.

11 She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river.

12 Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?

13 The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.

14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;

15 And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

16 It is burnt with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.

17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.

18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.

19 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

LESSON CXXXV.

Proclamation of a Fast.

Now the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.

2 And they separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they con-

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fessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

4 Then the Levites said, Stand up, and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever; and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

5 Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven; the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all, and the host of heaven worshipeth thee.

6 Thou art the Lord, the God who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham:

7 And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him, to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words: for thou art righteous:

8 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea:

9 And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them: so didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day.

10 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

11 Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar, and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go.

12 Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgements and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

13 And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:

14 And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.

15 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments:

16 And refused to obey; neither were mindful of the wonders that thou didst among them: but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

17 Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought

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thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations:

18 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way, neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

19 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

20 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

¶ 21 Moreover, thou gavest them kingdoms, and nations, and didst divide them into corners; so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.

22 Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers that they should go in to possess it.

23 So the children went in, and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

24 And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods; wells digged, vineyards, and olive-yards, and fruit-trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

¶ 25 Nevertheless, they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets, which testified against them, to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

26 Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them, and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven: and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

27 But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hands of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven, and many times didst thou deliver them, according to thy mercies:

28 And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgements, which if a man do, he shall live in them; and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

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29 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

30 Nevertheless, for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

¶ 31 Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy; let not all the trouble seem little before thee that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

32 Howbeit, thou art just in all that is brought upon us: for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly.

33 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

34 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

35 Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers, to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it.

36 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies and over our cattle at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

37 And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests seal unto it.

LESSON CXXXVI.

Song of Moses.

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

6 Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee:

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thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

18 The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

¶ 20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

¶ 22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness.

LESSON CXXXVII.

Second Song of Moses.

And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.

¶ 2 Give ear, O ye heavens; and I will speak: and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

3 My doctrine shall drop as

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the rain: my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herbs, and as the showers upon the grass.

4 Because I will publish the name of the Lord; ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

5 He is the rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgement: a God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right is he.

6 They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.

7 Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people, and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

¶ 8 Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

9 When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people, according to the number of the children of Israel.

10 For the Lord's portion is his people: Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

11 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness: he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

12 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings;

13 So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

14 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

15 Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys didst thou eat, and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

¶ 16 But Jesurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness: then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

17 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.

18 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God: to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

19 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

20 And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

21 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

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22 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not god, they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people, I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

23 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

24 I will heap mischiefs upon them, I will spend mine arrows upon them.

25 They shall be burnt with hunger and devoured with burning heat and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.

26 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

27 I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men;

28 Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the Lord hath not done all this.

29 For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

¶30 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

31 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?

32 For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

33 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:

34 Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

35 Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?

36 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

37 For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants; when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

38 And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted,

39 Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink-offerings? let them rise up and help you, and be your protection.

40 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no God with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

41 For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever,

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42 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgement, I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

43 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

44 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land and to his people.

¶ 45 And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people.

LESSON CXXXVIII.

Balaam's Prophecy.

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

2 And he took up his parable, and said; Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

3 He hath said which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty:

¶ 4 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob! and thy tabernacles, O Israel!

5 As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the Lord hath planted, and as cedar-trees beside the waters.

6 He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

7 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.

8 He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion; who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

9 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Seth.

10 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

11 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

¶ 12 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said; Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

13 And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said; Strong is thy dwelling-place, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock:

14 Nevertheless the Kenite

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shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

15 And he took up his parable, and said; Alas, who shall live when God doeth this?

16 And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

¶17 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place.

LESSON CXXXIX.

Jotham's Fable.

And Jotham went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried:

¶2 Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

3 The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive-tree, Reign thou over us.

4 But the olive-tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

5 And the trees said to the fig-tree, Come thou; and reign over us.

6 But the fig-tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

7 Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.

8 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

9 Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.

10 And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

LESSON CXL.

Song of Deborah and Barak.

Then sang Deborah, and Barak the son of Abinoam, on that day, saying,

¶2 Praise ye the Lord for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

3 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes: I, even I, will sing unto the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.

4 Lord, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

5 The mountains melted from before the Lord, even that Sinai from before the Lord God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the high-ways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through by-ways.

7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased; they ceased in Israel, until that I, Deborah,

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arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the Lord.

10 Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgement, and walk by the way.

11 They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water; there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the Lord go down to the gates.

¶ 12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

13 Then he made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the Lord made me have dominion over the mighty.

14 Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people: out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.

15 And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley: for the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.

16 Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? for the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

17 Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea-shore, and abode in his breaches.

18 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeoparded their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.

19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo: they took no gain of money.

20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

21 The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon: O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength!

22 Then were the horse-hoofs broken by the means of the prancings, the prancings of their mighty ones.

¶ 23 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be; blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

24 He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.

25 She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workman's hammer: and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.

26 At her feet he bowed, he

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fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: where he bowed, there he fell down dead.

27 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?

28 Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself,

29 Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey, to every man a damsel or two? to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needle-work, of divers colours of needle-work on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?

30 So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might.

LESSON CXLI.

David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan.

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

¶ 2 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

3 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon: lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

4 Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

5 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

6 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

7 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

8 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places!

9 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

10 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

LESSON CXLII.

David's Prayer for the building of the Temple.

David blessed the Lord before all the congregation, and said;

¶ 2 Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, our father, for ever and ever.

3 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the

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heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

4 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all, and in thine hand is power and might: and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

5 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

6 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

7 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

8 O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared, to build thee an house for thine holy name, cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

9 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

10 O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

11 And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

¶ 12 And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the Lord your God.

13 And all the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads and worshiped the Lord.

LESSON CXLIII.

Solomon's Dedication of the Temple.

And Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

2 So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the Lord. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the Lord.

3 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

4 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

5 And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark,

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sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubim.

7 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

8 And it came to pass as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever; that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord;

9 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.

¶ 10 Then spake Solomon: The Lord said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

11 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.

12 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)

¶ 13 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,

14 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

15 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the Lord God of Israel.

16 And the Lord said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

17 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.

18 And the Lord hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built an house for the name of the Lord God of Israel.

19 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the Lord, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

¶ 20 And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

21 And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on

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earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

22 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

23 Therefore now, Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

24 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David, my father.

¶ 25 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

26 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to-day:

27 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said; My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

28 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive.

¶ 29 If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:

30 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

¶ 31 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication unto thee in this house:

32 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

¶ 33 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:

34 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

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¶ 35 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;

36 What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:

37 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

38 That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

¶ 39 Moreover concerning a stranger that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;

40 (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched-out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house;

41 Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

¶ 42 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the Lord toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name;

43 Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

44 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

45 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

46 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name;

47 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling-place, and maintain their cause;

48 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them

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compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

49 For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:

50 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.

51 For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God.

52 Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

53 Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting-place, thou and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.

54 O Lord God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.

¶ 55 And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

56 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel, with a loud voice, saying,

¶ 57 Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

58 The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers! let him not leave us nor forsake us:

59 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgements, which he commanded our fathers.

60 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:

61 That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.

62 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

¶ 63 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt-offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

64 And the priests could not enter into the house of the

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Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

65 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshiped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

LESSON CXLIV.

Destruction of Babylon.

The word that the Lord spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.

¶ 2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

3 For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

4 And Chaldea shall be a spoil; all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the Lord.

5 A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures, and they shall be robbed.

6 A drought is upon her waters, and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols.

7 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert, with the wild beasts of the islands, shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

¶ 8 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

9 They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon!

10 For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, and despised among men.

11 Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord.

12 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

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13 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

LESSON CXLV.

FLEE out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

2 Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine, therefore the nations are mad.

3 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

4 We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgement reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

5 The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

6 Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the Lord hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon to destroy it.

7 A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction.

8 Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the Lord hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.

9 O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

10 The Lord of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillars; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

11 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

12 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the Lord.

¶13 Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillars.

14 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.

15 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a

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desolation without an inhabitant.

16 The mighty men of Babylon have forborne to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwelling-places; her bars are broken.

17 One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end,

18 And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted.

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry.

20 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling-place for dragons, an astonishment and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

LESSON CXLVI.

How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

2 The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

3 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

4 Therefore, behold, the days come that I will do judgement upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

5 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the Lord.

6 As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

7 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the Lord afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.

8 Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the Lord.

9 A sound of a cry cometh from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans:

10 Because the Lord hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:

11 Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the Lord God of recompences shall surely requite.

12 And I will make drunk her princes and her wise men,

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her captains and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts.

¶ 13 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

14 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

15 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

16 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

17 And the wild beasts of the island shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her day shall not be prolonged.

LESSON CXLVII.

How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

2 The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

3 Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and all the graven images of her gods hath the Lord broken to the ground!

4 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

5 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

6 Yea, the fir-trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

7 Hell from beneath is moved for thee, to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

8 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

9 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

¶ 10 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

11 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north.

12 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

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13 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

14 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?

15 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof, that opened not the house of his prisoners?

16 All the kings of the nations, even all of them lie in glory, every one in his own house.

17 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch; and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

18 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evil-doers shall never be renowned.

19 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

20 For I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of hosts, and cut off from Babylon, the name and remnant, and son and nephew, saith the Lord.

21 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of hosts.

LESSON CXLVIII.

Destruction of Tyre.

THE burden of Tyre.

¶ 2 Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

3 Be still, ye inhabitants of the isle; thou whom the merchants of Zidon, that pass over the sea, have replenished.

4 And by great waters the seed of Sihor, the harvest of the river, is her revenue; and she is a mart of nations.

5 Be thou ashamed, O Zidon: for the sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea, saying, I travail not, nor bring forth children, neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins.

6 As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre.

7 Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.

8 Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn.

9 Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth?

10 The Lord of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

11 Pass through thy land as

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a river, O daughter of Tarshish: there is no more strength.

12 He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof.

LESSON CXLIX.

The word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

¶ 2 Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:

3 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.

4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

5 It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

6 And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the Lord.

¶ 7 For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses and with chariots and with horsemen and companies and much people.

8 He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field; and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.

9 And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers.

10 By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach.

11 With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets: he shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground.

12 And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.

13 And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

14 And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

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¶ 15 Thus saith the Lord God to Tyrus: Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?

16 Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment, and be astonished at thee.

17 And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea; she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

18 Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure.

19 For thus saith the Lord God; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

20 When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

21 I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord God.

LESSON CL.

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

¶ 2 Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus;

3 And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord God; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.

4 Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.

5 They have made all thy ship-boards of fir-trees of Senir: they have taken cedars from Lebanon to make masts for thee.

6 Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; the company of the Ashurites have made thy benches of ivory, brought out of the isles of Chittim.

7 Fine linen with broidered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.

8 The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad were thy mariners: thy wise men, O Tyrus, that were in thee, were thy pilots.

9 The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners

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were in thee to occupy thy merchandise.

10 They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.

11 The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers: they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect.

12 Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs.

13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded with the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market.

14 They of the house of Togarmah traded in thy fairs with horses and horsemen and mules.

15 The men of Dedan were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony.

16 Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making: they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple, and broidered work, and fine linen, and coral, and agate.

17 Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market wheat of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm.

18 Damascus was thy merchant in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches; in the wine of Helbon, and white wool.

19 Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs: bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were in thy market.

20 Dedan was thy merchant in precious cloths for chariots.

21 Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats: in these were they thy merchants.

22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold.

23 Haran, and Canneh, and Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants.

24 These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue cloths, and broidered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar, among thy merchandise.

25 The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.

¶ 26 Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas.

27 Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy

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company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin.

28 The suburbs shall shake at the sound of the cry of thy pilots.

29 And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land;

30 And shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes:

31 And they shall make themselves utterly bald for thee, and gird them with sackcloth, and they shall weep for thee with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing.

32 And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?

33 When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise.

34 In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters, thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall.

35 All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance.

36 The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.

LESSON CLI.

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

¶ 2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; (yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:)

3 Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:

4 With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures:

5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:

6 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;

7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness.

8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas.

9 Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God?

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but thou shalt be a man, and no god, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.

10 Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

¶11 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum; full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire; the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

15 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

16 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

17 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

18 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

LESSON CLII.

Destruction of Egypt.

The burden of Egypt.

¶2 Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

3 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.

4 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

5 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts.

6 And the waters shall fail

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from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.

7 And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.

8 The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.

9 The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the water shall languish.

10 Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave net-works, shall be confounded.

11 And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.

¶ 12 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellers of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

13 Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know, what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.

14 And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it.

15 Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers; and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia.

16 No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

17 And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

LESSON CLIII.

The former Glory of Assyria.

Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.

2 The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

3 Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

4 All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs; and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young; and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

5 Thus was he fair in his

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greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters.

6 The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir-trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut-trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty.

7 I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.

¶ 8 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;

9 I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

10 And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him.

11 Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches:

12 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth.

13 Thus saith the Lord God; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.

14 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

15 They also went down into hell with him, unto them that be slain with the sword: and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen.

LESSON CLIV.

Lament of the Babylonish Captivity.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea, we wept when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

5 If I forget thee, O Jeru-

salem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

LESSON CLV.

Return from the Babylonish Captivity.

THE word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

¶ 2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

¶ 4 And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

6 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

7 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:

8 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

¶ 9 Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

10 For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

11 For thus saith the Lord, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.

12 There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.

13 All thy lovers have forgotten thee: they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased.

14 Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

15 Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

16 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee

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of thy wounds, saith the Lord; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

¶ 17 Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling-places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

18 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

19 Their children also shall be as afore-time, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

20 And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord.

21 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

¶ 22 Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

23 The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

LESSON CLVI.

At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

2 Thus saith the Lord; The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.

4 Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

5 Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.

6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God.

7 For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

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9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born.

¶ 10 Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off; and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

11 For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord.

¶ 15 Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

16 Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.

17 And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border.

¶ 18 I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God.

19 Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord.

20 Set thee up way-marks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the high-way, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.

LESSON CLVII.

Say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

2 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall

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know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

3 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

¶4 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

5 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

6 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgements, and do them.

7 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

8 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses; and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

9 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

10 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

11 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

¶12 Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

13 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

14 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

15 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.

¶16 Thus saith the Lord God, When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob.

17 And they shall dwell in safety therein, and shall build houses and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence when I have executed judgements upon all them that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the Lord their God.

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LESSON CLVIII.

LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

2 When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

3 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.

4 The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

5 Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.

¶ 6 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

7 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

8 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

9 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

10 For there are set thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

11 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

12 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

13 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

14 Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

LESSON CLIX.

Destruction of Jerusalem.

BLOW ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap; like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every

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one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

LESSON CLX.

Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness;

2 And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord God of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein.

3 And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

4 And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcases will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

5 And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.

6 And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters; and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them.

7 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

8 I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

9 And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries.

¶ 10 But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the Lord.

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11 And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

12 But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.

13 They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing.

14 And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls.

15 The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.

16 There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

LESSON CLXI.

THUS saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

2 And she hath changed my judgements into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgements and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

3 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgements, neither have done according to the judgements of the nations that are round about you;

4 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgements in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.

5 And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations.

6 Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgements in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds.

7 Wherefore, As I live, saith the Lord God, surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

¶8 A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

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9 Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach among the nations that are round about thee, in the sight of all that pass by.

10 So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgements in thee. I the Lord have spoken it.

¶ 11 What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the house-tops?

12 Thou that art full of stirs, a tumultuous city, a joyous city: thy slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.

13 All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far.

14 Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

15 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

16 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging-place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them!

17 For death is come up into our windows, and is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, and the young men from the streets.

LESSON CLXII.

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

¶ 2 Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

3 And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God; Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

4 And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.

5 And I will lay the dead carcases of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars.

6 In all your dwelling-places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

7 And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

¶ 8 Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.

9 And they that escape of you shall remember me among

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the nations whither they shall be carried captives: and they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

10 And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

¶ 11 Thus saith the Lord God; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.

12 Then shall ye know that I am the Lord, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.

13 So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the Lord.

LESSON CLXIII.

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

¶ 2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

3 Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

4 Thus saith the Lord God; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.

5 An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come.

6 The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near.

7 And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the Lord that smiteth.

8 Behold the day, behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded.

9 Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them.

10 The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

11 For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive: for the vision is touching the whole multitude thereof, which shall not return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.

12 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready;

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but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

13 The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

¶ 14 But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

15 All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.

16 They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.

17 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumbling-block of their iniquity.

¶ 18 As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

19 And I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall pollute it.

20 The land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

21 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

22 Her priests have violated my law and have profaned mine holy things.

23 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

24 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord hath not spoken.

25 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

26 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

27 Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.

28 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace and there shall be none.

29 Mischief shall come upon

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mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

30 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the Lord.

LESSON CLXIV.

And it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes;

2 That the Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

3 The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

4 And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

5 The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee until thou be destroyed.

6 The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

7 And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

8 The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:

9 And thou shalt grope at noon-day, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

10 Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.

11 The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up: and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

12 So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

¶ 13 The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

14 And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and

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a by-word among all nations, whither the Lord shall lead thee.

15 Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.

16 Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worm shall eat them.

17 Thou shalt have olive-trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit.

18 Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them: for they shall go into captivity.

19 All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.

20 The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

21 He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.

22 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

23 And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

24 Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

25 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

¶26 The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

27 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

28 And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

29 And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.

30 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

31 So that the man that is

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tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

32 So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

33 The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

34 And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

¶ 35 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

36 Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

37 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

38 Also every sickness, and every plague which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

39 And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the Lord thy God.

40 And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

41 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

42 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

43 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

44 And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye

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shall be sold unto your enemies for bond-men and bond-women, and no man shall buy you.

LESSON CLXV.

Lament over Jerusalem.

How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

3 Judah is gone into captivity, because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.

4 The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.

5 Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

6 And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.

8 Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O Lord, behold my affliction; for the enemy hath magnified himself!

9 The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

10 All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O Lord, and consider; for I am become vile!

¶ 11 Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

12 From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaileth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.

13 The yoke of my trans-

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gressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.

14 The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men: the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, as in a wine-press.

15 For these things I weep; mine eye runneth down with water, because the Comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

16 Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her: the Lord hath commanded concerning Jacob, that his adversaries should be round about him.

¶ 17 The Lord is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

18 I called for my lovers, but they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.

19 Behold, O Lord; for I am in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth; at home there is as death.

20 They have heard that I sigh: there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done it: thou wilt bring the day that thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me.

21 Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

LESSON CLXVI.

How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!

2 The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

3 He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy; and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.

4 He hath bent his bow like an enemy: he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all that were pleasant to

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the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion.

5 The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased, in the daughter of Judah, mourning and lamentation.

6 And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the Lord hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised, in the indignation of his anger, the king and the priest.

7 The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the Lord, as in the day of a solemn feast.

8 Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the Lord.

9 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

10 Mine eyes do fail with tears, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

11 They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mother's bosom.

12 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?

13 All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call, The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

14 All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

15 The Lord hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

16 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

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17 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

18 The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied.

19 Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the Lord's anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed.

¶ 20 Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

21 And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads;

22 Because the ground is chapt; for there was no rain in the earth; the ploughmen were ashamed, they covered their heads:

23 Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.

24 And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass.

LESSON CLXVII.

How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

2 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

3 Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people is become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.

4 The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.

5 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

7 Her Nazarites were purer than snow; they were whiter than milk; they were more ruddy in body than rubies; their polishing was of sapphire:

8 Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

9 They that be slain with the sword are better than they that

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be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The Lord hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

¶ 13 For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,

14 They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood.

15 The anger of the Lord hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.

16 As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.

17 They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.

18 Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

19 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the Lord, was taken in their pits; of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.

LESSON CLXVIII.

Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows.

4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.

5 Our necks are under persecution: we labour, and have no rest.

6 We have given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

7 Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities.

8 Servants have ruled over us: there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand.

9 We gat our bread with the peril of our lives, because of the sword of the wilderness.

10 Our skin was black like an oven, because of the terrible famine.

11 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

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12 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood.

13 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music.

14 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

15 The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!

16 For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

17 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate; the foxes walk upon it.

18 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

19 Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

20 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.

LESSON CLXIX.

O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance: thy holy temple have they defiled: they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven; the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.

3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.

4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours; a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

5 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God?

Section III.—*Prophecies of the Messiah.*

LESSON CLXX.

Moses said unto the people of Israel,

2 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times and unto diviners; but as for thee, the Lord hath not suffered thee so to do.

3 The Lord thy God shall raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken;

4 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

5 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

6 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

7 And it shall come to pass,

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that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

LESSON CLXXI.

THERE shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord:

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord, and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion, and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them:

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed, their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox:

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek, and his rest shall be glorious.

¶ 11 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

12 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon: they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

¶ 13 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

14 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come, and save you.

15 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

16 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

17 And the parched ground

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shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

18 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

19 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon; it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there.

20 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness; and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

¶ 21 Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.

22 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

¶ 23 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God.

24 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

25 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

¶ 26 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid: say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God.

27 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold his reward is with him, and his work before him.

28 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

LESSON CLXXII.

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness: and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

¶ 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised

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for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one his own way: and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgement: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¶ 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong: because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

15 So shall he sprinkle many nations: the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see, and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

LESSON CLXXIII.

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

5 Then thou shalt see, and flow together; and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto

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thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

6 And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

7 Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

8 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

9 The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir-tree, the pine-tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary: and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

10 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

¶11 Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations, and thou shalt know that I the Lord am thy saviour and thy redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

12 For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.

13 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

14 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

15 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

16 Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

17 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I the Lord will hasten it in his time.

LESSON CLXXIV.

Behold my Servant, whom I uphold; mine elect in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth judgement to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgement unto truth.

4 He shall not fail, nor be

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discouraged, till he have set judgement in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

5 He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass; as showers that water the earth.

6 In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

7 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

8 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

9 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: and the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

10 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him, all nations shall serve him.

11 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

12 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

13 He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

14 His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

15 And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking judgement, and hasting righteousness.

¶ 16 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

LESSON CLXXV.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

2 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle-bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

¶ 3 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord.

4 And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

5 And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

¶ 6 Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

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7 Come near ye nations to hear, and hearken ye people; let the earth hear and all that is therein: the world, and all things that come forth of it.

8 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgement.

9 And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest: as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

10 And the eyes of them that see, shall not be dim; and the ears of them that hear, shall hearken.

11 The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.

12 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight: these things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

13 For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord: joy and gladness shall be found therein: thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

¶ 14 Hearken unto me, my people, and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgement to rest for a light of the people.

15 Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars, yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city:

16 Because the palaces shall be forsaken, the multitude of the city shall be left, the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks:

17 Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

18 Then judgement shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

19 And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

20 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

LESSON CLXXVI.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound:

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the gar-

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ment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

¶ 4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your ploughmen and your vine-dressers.

6 But ye shall be named the priests of the Lord: men shall call you the ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall you boast yourselves.

¶ 7 For your shame you shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

8 For I the Lord love judgement, I hate robbery for burnt-offering, and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

¶ 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God: for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud: and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

LESSON CLXXVII.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an

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everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

4 Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee, shall run unto thee, because of the Lord thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel: for he hath glorified thee.

¶ 6 For behold, I create new heavens, and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

7 But be you glad, and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

8 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people, and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

9 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

10 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer: and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

11 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

12 None shall be weary nor stumble amongst them; none shall slumber nor sleep: neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken.

13 For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.

14 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¶ 15 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob.

16 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

¶ 17 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

LESSON CLXXVIII.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

2 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice, with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

¶ 3 Break forth into joy, sing

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together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

4 The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

5 The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those that published it.

6 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

7 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

8 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap.

9 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

10 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

11 And I will come near to you to judgement; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

12 For I am the Lord, I change not: therefore the sons of Jacob are not consumed.

¶13 Awakè, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

14 And it shall come to pass that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off, and die; but the third shall be left therein.

15 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

16 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

17 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

18 Thus saith the Lord, the redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers;

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Kings shall see, and arise; princes also shall worship; because of the Lord, that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

19 Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

20 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves: they shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

21 They shall not hunger, nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them; for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

22 I the Lord have called thee to righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles:

23 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

24 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

25 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.

26 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

¶ 27 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

28 It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

29 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

30 Behold, these shall come from far; and lo, these from the north, and from the west, and these from the land of Sinim.

31 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

¶ 32 For as the new heavens, and the new earth which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.

33 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to an-

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other, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.

34 And all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob: for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

35 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

36 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

37 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

¶ 38 Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west:

39 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

40 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

¶ 41 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.

42 And ye shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet, in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

43 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

LESSON CLXXIX.

Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, and thou Jesurun whom I have chosen.

2 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

3 And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water-courses.

4 I will instruct thee, and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

¶ 5 Zion shall be redeemed with judgement, and her converts with righteousness.

6 The mighty God, even the Lord hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun, unto the going down thereof.

7 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

8 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and

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prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth.

9 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness.

¶ 10 And in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

11 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

¶ 12 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

13 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

14 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

¶ 15 In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted:

16 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth even for ever.

¶ 17 Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth, and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

18 But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

19 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

20 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands, thy walls are continually before me.

21 Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

END OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

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APPENDIX.

THE APOCRYPHA.

SECTION I.—*God the Creator.*

LESSON I.

O LORD, thou spakest from the beginning of the creation, even the first day, and saidst thus; Let heaven and earth be made: and thy word was a perfect work.

2 And then was the spirit; and darkness and silence were on every side; the sound of man's voice was not yet formed.

3 Then commandedst thou a fair light to come forth of thy treasures, that thy work might appear.

4 Upon the second day thou madest the spirit of the firmament, and commandedst it to part asunder, and make a division betwixt the waters, that the one part might go up, and the other remain beneath.

5 Upon the third day thou didst command that the waters should be gathered in the seventh part of the earth: six parts hast thou dried up, and kept them to the intent that of these some being planted of God and tilled might serve thee.

6 For as soon as thy word went forth, the work was made.

7 For immediately there was great and innumerable fruit, and many and divers pleasures for the taste, and flowers of unchangeable colour, and odours of wonderful smell: and this was done the third day.

8 Upon the fourth day thou commandedst that the sun should shine, and the moon give her light, and the stars should be in order:

9 And gavest them a charge to do service unto man, that was to be made.

10 Upon the fifth day thou saidst unto the seventh part, where the waters were gathered, that it should bring forth living creatures, fowls and fishes: and so it came to pass.

11 For the dumb water, and without life, brought forth living things at the commandment of God, that all people might praise thy wondrous works.

12 He that liveth for ever, created all things:

13 Which spake but the word, Let the earth be made; and it was made: Let the heaven be made; and it was created.

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14 In his word were the stars made, and he knoweth the number of them.

15 He searcheth the deep, and the treasures thereof; he hath measured the sea and what it containeth.

16 He hath shut the sea in the midst of the waters, and with his word hath he hanged the earth upon the waters.

17 He spreadeth out the heavens like a vault; upon the waters hath he founded it.

18 In the desert hath he made springs of water, and pools upon the tops of the mountains, that the floods might pour down from the high rocks to water the earth.

19 He made man, and put his heart in the midst of the body, and gave him breath, life, and understanding.

¶ 20 In the beginning, when the earth was made, before the borders of the world stood, or ever the winds blew,

21 Before it thundered and lightened, or ever the foundations of paradise were laid,

22 Before the fair flowers were seen, or ever the moveable powers were established, before the innumerable multitude of angels were gathered together,

23 Or ever the heights of the air were lifted up, before the measures of the firmament were named,

24 And ere the present years were sought out, and or ever the inventions of them that now sin were turned, before they were sealed that have gathered faith for a treasure;

25 Then did the Lord consider these things, and they all were made through him alone, and through none other: by him also they shall be ended, and by none other.

LESSON II.

The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again.

2 He gave them few days, and a short time, and power also over the things therein.

3 He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to his image.

4 And put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and fowls.

5 Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, ears, and a heart, gave he them to understand.

6 Withal he filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and showed them good and evil.

7 He set his eye upon their hearts, that he might show them the greatness of his works.

8 He gave them to glory in his marvellous acts for ever, that they might declare his works with understanding.

9 And the elect shall praise his holy name.

10 Beside this he gave them knowledge, and the law of life for an heritage.

11 He made an everlasting covenant with them, and showed them his judgements.

12 Their eyes saw the majesty

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of his glory, and their ears heard his glorious voice.

13 And he said unto them, Beware of all unrighteousness; and he gave every man commandment concerning his neighbour.

¶ 14 The works of the Lord are done in judgement from the beginning: and from the time he made them he disposed the parts thereof.

15 For sun, moon, and stars, being bright, and sent to do their offices, are obedient.

16 In like manner the lightning when it breaketh forth is easy to be seen; and after the same manner the wind bloweth in every country.

17 And when God commandeth the clouds to go over the whole world, they do as they are bidden.

18 He garnished his works for ever, and in his hand are the chief of them unto all generations: they neither labour, nor are weary, nor cease from their works.

19 None of them hindereth another, and they shall never disobey his word.

20 After this the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with his blessings.

21 With all manner of living things hath he covered the face thereof; and they shall return into it again.

LESSON III.

I WILL remember the works of the Lord, and declare the things that I have seen: In the words of the Lord are his works.

2 The sun that giveth light looketh upon all things, and the work thereof is full of the glory of the Lord.

3 The Lord hath not given power to the saints to declare all his marvellous works, which the Almighty Lord firmly settled, that whatsoever is, might be established for his glory.

4 He hath garnished the excellent works of his wisdom, and he is from everlasting to everlasting: unto him may nothing be added, neither can he be diminished, and he hath no need of any counsellor.

5 Oh how desirable are all his works! and that a man may see even to a spark.

6 All these things live and remain for ever for all uses, and they are all obedient.

7 All things are double one against another: and he hath made nothing imperfect.

8 One thing establisheth the good of another: and who shall be filled with beholding his glory?

9 The pride of the height, the clear firmament, the beauty of heaven, with his glorious show;

10 The sun when it appeareth, declaring at his rising a marvellous instrument, the work of the most High:

11 At noon it parcheth the country, and who can abide the burning heat thereof?

12 A man blowing a furnace is in works of heat, but the sun burneth the mountains three times more; breathing

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out fiery vapours, and sending forth bright beams, it dimmeth the eyes.

13 Great is the Lord that made it; and at his commandment it runneth hastily.

14 He made the moon also to serve in her season for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world.

15 From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection.

16 The month is called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven;

17 The beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light in the highest places of the Lord.

18 At the commandment of the Holy One they will stand in their order, and never faint in their watches.

19 Look upon the rainbow, and praise him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof.

20 It compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it.

21 By his commandment he maketh the snow to fall apace, and sendeth swiftly the lightnings of his judgement.

22 Through this the treasures are opened: and clouds fly forth as fowls.

23 By his great power he maketh the clouds firm, and the hailstones are broken small.

24 At his sight the mountains are shaken, and at his will the south wind bloweth.

25 The noise of the thunder maketh the earth to tremble: so doth the northern storm and the whirlwind: as birds flying he scattereth the snow, and the falling down thereof is as the lighting of grasshoppers:

26 The eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteness thereof, and the heart is astonished at the raining of it.

27 The hoar frost also as salt he poureth on the earth, and being congealed, it lieth on the top of sharp stakes.

28 When the cold north wind bloweth, and the water is congealed into ice, it abideth upon every gathering together of water, and clotheth the water as with a breastplate.

29 It devoureth the mountains, and burneth the wilderness, and consumeth the grass as fire.

30 A present remedy of all is a mist coming speedily: a dew coming after heat refresheth.

¶31 By his counsel he appeaseth the deep, and planteth islands therein.

32 They that sail on the sea tell of the danger thereof; and when we hear it with our ears, we marvel thereat.

33 For therein be strange and wondrous works, variety of all kinds of beasts and whales created.

34 By him the end of them hath prosperous success, and by his word all things consist.

35 We may speak much, and

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yet come short: wherefore in sum, He is all.

36 How shall we be able to magnify him? for he is great above all his works.

37 The Lord is terrible and very great, and marvellous is his power.

38 When ye glorify the Lord, exalt him as much as ye can; for even yet will he far exceed: and when ye exalt him, put forth all your strength, and be not weary; for ye can never go far enough.

39 Who hath seen him, that he might tell us? and who can magnify him as he is?

40 There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but a few of his works.

41 For the Lord hath made all things; and to the godly hath he given wisdom.

LESSON IV.

Song of Praise.

BLESSED art thou, O Lord God of our fathers: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

2 And blessed is thy glorious and holy name: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

3 Blessed art thou in the temple of thine holy glory: and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

4 Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and sittest upon the cherubim: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever.

5 Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; and to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

6 Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; and above all to be praised and glorified for ever.

7 O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

8 O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

9 O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

10 O all ye waters that be above the heaven, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

11 O all ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

12 O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

13 O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

14 O every shower and dew, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

15 O all ye winds, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

16 O ye fire and heat, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

17 O ye winter and summer, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

18 O ye dews and storms of snow, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

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19 O ye nights and days, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

20 O ye light and darkness, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

21 O ye ice and cold, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

22 O ye frost and snow, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

23 O ye lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

24 O let the earth bless the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

25 O ye mountains and little hills, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

26 O all ye things that grow on the earth, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

27 O ye fountains, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

28 O ye seas and rivers, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

29 O ye whales, and all that move in the waters, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

30 O all ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

31 O all ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

32 O ye children of men, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

33 O Israel, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

34 O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

35 O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

36 O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

37 O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

38 O give thanks unto the Lord, because he is gracious: for his mercy endureth for ever.

39 O all ye that worship the Lord, bless the God of gods, praise him, and give him thanks: for his mercy endureth for ever.

SECTION II.—*God's Power and Mercy.*

LESSON V.

O LORD, Lord, the King Almighty: the whole world is in thy power, and if thou hast appointed to save Israel, there is no man can gainsay thee:

2 For thou hast made heaven and earth, and all the wondrous things under the heaven.

3 Thou art Lord of all things, and there is no man that can resist thee, which art the Lord.

4 Thou knowest all things;

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thou hast power of life and death: thou leadest to the gates of hell, and bringest up again.

5 A man indeed killeth through his malice; and the spirit, when it is gone forth, returneth not; neither the soul received up cometh again.

6 But it is not possible to escape thine hand.

7 For great are thy judgements, and cannot be expressed.

8 For who shall say, What hast thou done? or who shall withstand thy judgement? or who shall accuse thee for the nations that perish, whom thou hast made? or who shall come to stand against thee, to be revenged for the unrighteous men?

9 Thine almighty word leaped down from heaven out of thy royal throne, as a fierce man of war into the midst of a land of destruction;

10 And brought thine unfeigned commandment as a sharp sword, and standing up filled all things with death; and it touched the heaven, but it stood upon the earth.

11 For neither is there any God but thou that carest for all, to whom thou mightest shew that thy judgement is not unright.

12 Neither shall king or tyrant be able to set his face against thee for any whom thou hast punished.

¶ 13 Forsomuch then as thou art righteous thyself, thou orderest all things righteously: thinking it not agreeable with thy power to condemn him that hath not deserved to be punished.

14 For thy power is the beginning of righteousness, and because thou art the Lord of all, it maketh thee to be gracious unto all.

15 For when men will not believe that thou art of a full power, thou shewest thy strength, and among them that know it thou makest their boldness manifest.

16 But thou, mastering thy power, judgest with equity, and orderest us with great favour: for thou mayest use power when thou wilt.

17 By such works hast thou taught thy people that the just man should be merciful, and hast made thy children to be of a good hope that thou givest repentance for sins.

18 Thou, O God, art gracious and true, longsuffering, and in mercy ordering all things.

19 For if we sin, we are thine, knowing thy power: but we will not sin, knowing that we are counted thine.

20 For to know thee is perfect righteousness: yea, to know thy power is the root of immortality.

21 For thine incorruptible Spirit is in all things.

22 Therefore chastenest thou them by little and little that offend, and warnest them by putting them in remembrance wherein they have offended, that leaving their wickedness they may believe on thee, O Lord.

23 For thou canst shew thy

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great strength at all times when thou wilt; and who may withstand the power of thine arm?

24 For the whole world before thee is as a little grain of the balance, yea, as a drop of the morning dew that falleth down upon the earth.

25 But thou hast mercy upon all; for thou canst do all things, and winkest at the sins of men, because they should amend.

26 And executing thy judgements upon them by little and little, thou gavest them place of repentance.

27 For thou lovest all the things that are, and abhorrest nothing which thou hast made: for never wouldest thou have made any thing, if thou hadst hated it.

28 And how could any thing have endured, if it had not been thy will? or been preserved, if not called by thee?

29 But thou sparest all: for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls.

LESSON VI.

O Lord, Lord God, Creator of all things, who art fearful and strong, and righteous, and merciful, and the only and gracious king,

2 The only giver of all things, the only just, almighty, and everlasting, thou that deliveredst Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the fathers, and sanctify them:

3 Receive the sacrifice for thy whole people Israel, and preserve thine own portion, and sanctify it.

4 Gather those together that are scattered from us, deliver them that serve among the heathen, look upon them that are despised and abhorred, and let the heathen know that thou art our God.

5 Thou, O Lord of all things, who hast need of nothing, wast pleased that the temple of thine habitation should be among us:

6 Therefore now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep thine house ever undefiled, and stop every unrighteous mouth.

7 O Israel, how great is the house of God! and how large is the place of his possession!

8 Great, and hath none end; high, and unmeasurable.

¶ 9 Be of good comfort, O Israel; and be not heavy, thou house of Jacob;

10 For the Highest hath you in remembrance, and the Mighty hath not forgotten you in temptation.

11 Now therefore bless ye the God of all, which only doeth wondrous things every where, which exalteth our days from the womb, and dealeth with us according to his mercy.

12 He grant us joyfulness of heart, and that peace may be in our days in Israel for ever:

13 That he would confirm his mercy with us, and deliver us at his time!

¶ 14 God be gracious unto you, and remember his covenant that he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, his faithful servants;

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15 And give you all an heart to serve him, and to do his will, with a good courage and a willing mind;

16 And open your hearts to his law and commandments, and send you peace,

17 And hear your prayers, and be at one with you, and never forsake you in time of trouble.

LESSON VII.

O God, thou art worthy to be praised with all pure and holy praise; therefore let thy saints praise thee with all thy creatures; and let all thine angels and thine elect praise thee for ever.

2 Blessed be God that liveth for ever, and blessed be his kingdom:

3 For he doth scourge, and hath mercy: he leadeth down to hell, and bringeth up again: neither is there any that can avoid his hand.

4 Confess him before the Gentiles, ye children of Israel: for he hath scattered us among them.

5 There declare his greatness, and extol him before all the living: for he is our Lord, and he is the God our Father for ever.

6 And he will scourge us for our iniquities, and will have mercy again, and will gather us out of all nations, among whom he hath scattered us.

7 He never withdraweth his mercy from us: and though he punish with adversity, yet doth he never forsake his people.

8 If ye turn to him with your whole heart, and with your whole mind, and deal uprightly before him, then will he turn unto you, and will not hide his face from you.

9 Therefore see what he will do with you, and confess him with your whole mouth, and praise the Lord of might, and extol the everlasting King.

10 In the land of my captivity do I praise him, and declare his might and majesty to a sinful nation.

11 O ye sinners, turn and do justice before him: who can tell if he will accept you, and have mercy on you?

¶ 12 I will extol my God, and my soul shall praise the King of heaven, and shall rejoice in his greatness.

13 Let all men speak, and let all praise him for his righteousness.

14 O Jerusalem, the holy city, he will scourge thee for thy children's works, and will have mercy again on the sons of the righteous.

15 Give praise to the Lord, for he is good: and praise the everlasting King, that his tabernacle may be builded in thee again with joy, and let him make joyful there in thee those that are captives, and love in thee for ever those that are miserable.

16 Many nations shall come from far to the name of the Lord God, with gifts in their hands, even gifts to the King of heaven; all generations shall praise thee with great joy.

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17 Rejoice and be glad for the children of the just: for they shall be gathered together, and shall bless the Lord of the just.

18 O blessed are they which love thee, for they shall rejoice in thy peace: blessed are they which have been sorrowful for all thy scourges; for they shall rejoice for thee, when they have seen all thy glory, and shall be glad for ever.

19 Let my soul bless God the great King.

20 Blessed art thou, O God of our fathers, and blessed is thy holy and glorious name for ever; let the heavens bless thee, and all thy creatures.

¶ 21 Sing a song of praise, bless the Lord in all his works.

22 Magnify his name, and shew forth his praise with the songs of your lips, and with harps, and in praising him ye shall say after this manner:

23 Bless God, praise him, and magnify him, and praise him for the things which he hath done unto you in the sight of all that live. It is good to praise God, and exalt his name, and honourably to shew forth the works of God; therefore be not slack to praise him.

24 All the works of the Lord are exceeding good, and whatsoever he commandeth shall be accomplished in due season.

25 And none may say, What is this? wherefore is that? for at time convenient they shall all be sought out.

26 At his commandment the waters stood as an heap, and at the words of his mouth the receptacles of waters.

27 At his commandment is done whatsoever pleaseth him; and none can hinder when he will save.

¶ 28 A man need not to say, What is this? wherefore is that? for he hath made all things for their uses.

29 All the works of the Lord are good: and he will give every needful thing in due season.

30 So that a man cannot say, This is worse than that: for in time they shall all be well approved.

31 And therefore praise ye the Lord with the whole heart and mouth, and bless the name of the Lord.

32 Bless the Lord thy God alway, and desire of him that thy ways may be directed, and that all thy paths and counsels may prosper: for every nation hath not counsel; but the Lord himself giveth all good things, and he humbleth whom he will, as he will.

33 As his mercy is great, so is his correction also: he judgeth a man according to his works.

34 Faint not to be strong in the Lord; that he may confirm you, cleave unto him: for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and beside him there is no other saviour.

35 He filleth all things with his wisdom.

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SECTION III.—*God Allseeing.*

LESSON VIII.

BEHOLD, the Lord knoweth all the works of men, their imaginations, their thoughts, and their hearts:

2 He seeketh out the deep, and the heart, and considereth their crafty devices: for the Lord knoweth all that may be known, and he beholdeth the signs of the world.

3 He declareth the things that are past, and for to come, and revealeth the steps of hidden things.

4 No thought escapeth him, neither any word is hidden from him.

5 The ways of men are ever before him, and shall not be hid from his eyes.

6 All their works are as the sun before him, and his eyes are continually upon their ways.

7 None of their unrighteous deeds are hid from him, but all their sins are before the Lord.

8 But the Lord being gracious, and knowing his workmanship, neither left nor forsook them, but spared them.

9 The Spirit of Almighty God, which made all things, and searcheth out all hidden things in the secrets of the earth,

10 Surely he knoweth your inventions, and what ye think in your hearts, even them that sin, and would hide their sin.

¶11 The ungodly saith in his heart, Who seeth me? I am compassed about with darkness, the walls cover me, and nobody seeth me; what need I to fear? the Most High will not remember my sins.

12 Such a man only feareth the eyes of men, and knoweth not that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men, and considering the most secret parts.

13 He knew all things ere ever they were created; so also after they were perfected he looked upon them all.

14 The works of all flesh are before him, and nothing can be hid from his eyes.

15 He seeth from everlasting to everlasting; and there is nothing wonderful before him.

16 The Lord hath exactly searched out all your works, and he will put you all to shame.

17 And when your sins are brought forth, ye shall be ashamed before men, and your own sins shall be your accusers in that day.

18 What will ye do? or how will ye hide your sins before God and his angels?

19 Behold, God himself is the judge, fear him: leave off from your sins, and forget your iniquities, to meddle no more with them for ever: so shall God lead you forth, and deliver you from all trouble.

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SECTION IV.—*God Inscrutable.*

LESSON IX.

THE Lord only is righteous, and there is none other but he;

2 Who governeth the world with the palm of his hand, and all things obey his will: for he is the King of all, by his power dividing holy things from profane.

3 To whom hath he given power to declare his works? and who shall find out his noble acts?

4 Who shall number the strength of his majesty? and who shall also tell out his mercies?

5 As for the wondrous works of the Lord, there may nothing be taken from them, neither may anything be put unto them, neither can the ground of them be found out.

6 Behold the heaven of heavens, the deep, and the earth, and all that therein is, shall be moved when he shall visit.

7 The mountains also and foundations of the earth shall be shaken with trembling, when the Lord looketh upon them.

8 No heart can think upon these things worthily: and who is able to conceive his ways?

9 It is a tempest which no man can see: for the most part of his works are hid.

10 Who can declare the works of his justice? or who can endure them? for his covenant is afar off, and the trial of all things is in the end.

11 Number me the things that are not yet come, gather me together the drops that are scattered abroad, make me the flowers green again that are withered,

12 Open me the places that are closed, and bring me forth the winds that in them are shut up, shew me the image of a voice; and then I will declare to thee the thing that thou labourest to know.

¶ 13 And I said, O Lord that bearest rule, who may know these things, but he that hath not his dwelling with men?

14 As for me, I am unwise: how may I then speak of these things whereof thou askest me?

15 Then said he unto me, Like as thou canst do none of these things that I have spoken of, even so canst thou not find out my judgement, or, in the end, the love that I have promised unto my people.

16 Then answered I and said, I beseech thee, O Lord, let me have understanding:

17 For it was not my mind to be curious of the high things, but of such as pass by us daily: wherefore are our years few and evil?

18 For what profit is it for men now in this present time to live in heaviness, and after death to look for punishment?

19 And he answered me, saying, Do not thou hasten above the Most Highest: for thy haste

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is in vain to be above him, for thou hast much exceeded.

20 The more thou searchest, the more thou shalt marvel; for the world hasteth fast to pass away,

21 And cannot comprehend the things that are promised to the righteous in time to come: for this world is full of unrighteousness and infirmities.

22 This present life is not the end where much glory doth abide;

23 But the day of doom shall be the end of this time, and the beginning of the immortality for to come, wherein corruption is past,

24 Intemperance is at an end, infidelity is cut off, righteousness is grown, and truth is sprung up.

25 For evil shall be put out, and deceit shall be quenched.

26 As for faith, it shall flourish; corruption shall be overcome; and the truth, which hath been so long without fruit, shall be declared.

¶ 27 And now renounce corruption, let go from thee mortal thoughts, cast away the burdens of man, put off the weak nature,

28 And set aside the thoughts that are most heavy unto thee;

29 And seek not to bind the counsels of the Lord: for God is not as man, that he may be threatened; neither is he as the son of man, that he should be wavering.

30 As the will of God is in heaven, so let him do.

LESSON X.

And the angel that was sent unto me, whose name was Uriel, said,

2 Thy heart hath gone too far in this world, and thinkest thou to comprehend the way of the Most High?

3 Then said I, Yea, my lord. And he answered me, and said, I am sent to shew thee three ways, and to set forth three similitudes before thee:

4 Wherefore if thou canst declare me one, I will shew thee also the way that thou desirest to see, and I shall shew thee from whence the wicked heart cometh.

5 And I said, Tell on, my lord. Then said he unto me, Go thy way, weigh me the weight of the fire, or measure me the blast of the wind, or call me again the day that is past.

6 Then answered I and said, What man is able to do that; that thou shouldest ask such things of me?

7 And he said unto me, If I should ask thee how great dwellings are in the midst of the sea, or how many springs are in the beginning of the deep, or how many springs are above the firmament, or which are the outgoings of paradise:

8 Peradventure thou wouldest say unto me, I never went down into the deep, nor as yet into hell, neither did I ever climb up into heaven.

9 Nevertheless now have I asked thee but only of the fire and wind, and of the day where-

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through thou hast passed, and of things from which thou canst not be separated; and yet canst thou give me no answer of them.

¶ 10 He said moreover unto me, Thine own things, and such as are grown up with thee, canst thou not know;

11 How should thy vessel then be able to comprehend the way of the Highest, and, the world being now outwardly corrupted; to understand the corruption that is evident in my sight?

12 Then said I unto him, It were better that we were not at all, than that we should live still in wickedness, and to suffer, and not to know wherefore.

13 He answered me, and said, I went into a forest in a plain, and the trees took counsel,

14 And said, Come, let us go and make war against the sea, that it may depart away before us, and that we may make us more woods.

15 The floods of the sea also in like manner took counsel, and said, Come, let us go up and subdue the woods of the plain, that there also we may make us another country.

16 The thought of the wood was in vain, for the fire came and consumed it.

17 The thought of the floods of the sea came likewise to nought, for the sand stood up and stopped them.

18 If thou wert judge now betwixt these two, whom wouldest thou begin to justify? or whom wouldest thou condemn?

19 I answered and said, Verily it is a foolish thought that they both have devised, for the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea also hath his place to bear his floods.

20 Then answered he me, and said, Thou hast given a right judgement, but why judgest thou not thyself also?

21 For like as the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea to his floods, even so they that dwell upon the earth may understand nothing but that which is upon the earth: and he that dwelleth upon the heavens may only understand the things that are above the height of the heavens.

Section V.—*Frailty of Man.*

LESSON XI.

Great travail is created for every man, and an heavy yoke is upon the sons of Adam, from the day that they go out of their mother's womb, till the day that they return to the mother of all things.

2 Their imagination of things to come, and the day of death, trouble their thoughts, and cause fear of heart;

3 From him that sitteth on a throne of glory, unto him that is humbled in earth and ashes;

4 From him that weareth purple and a crown, unto him that is clothed with a linen frock.

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5 Wrath, and envy, trouble, and unquietness, fear of death, and anger, and strife, and, in the time of rest upon his bed, his night-sleep, do change his knowledge.

6 A little or nothing is his rest, and afterward he is in his sleep, as in a day of keeping watch, troubled in the vision of his heart, as if he were escaped out of a battle.

7 When all is safe, he awaketh, and marvelleth that the fear was nothing.

8 Such things happen unto all flesh, both man and beast; and that is sevenfold more upon sinners.

¶ 9 When a man hath done, then he beginneth; and when he leaveth off, then he shall be doubtful.

10 What is man, and whereto serveth he? what is his good, and what is his evil?

11 The number of a man's days at the most are an hundred years.

12 As a drop of water unto the sea, and a gravelstone in comparison of the sand; so are a thousand years to the days of eternity.

13 Therefore is God patient with them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them.

14 He vieweth the power of the height of heaven; and all men are but earth and ashes.

15 He saw and perceived their end to be evil; therefore he multiplied his compassion.

16 The mercy of man is toward his neighbour; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh: he reproveth, and nurtureth, and teacheth, and bringeth again, as a shepherd his flock.

Section VI.—*Death.*

LESSON XII.

O Death, how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that liveth at rest in his possessions, unto the man that hath nothing to vex him, and that hath prosperity in all things: yea, unto him that is yet able to receive meat!

2 O Death, acceptable is thy sentence unto the needy, and unto him whose strength faileth, that is now in the last age, and is vexed with all things, and to him that despaireth, and hath lost patience!

3 Fear not the sentence of death, remember them that have been before thee, and that come after; for this is the sentence of the Lord over all flesh.

4 And why art thou against the pleasure of the Most High? there is no inquisition in the grave, whether thou have lived ten, or an hundred, or a thousand years.

5 When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest; and be comforted for him, when his spirit is departed from him.

6 The mourning of men is about their bodies: but an ill name of sinners shall be blotted out.

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7 Have regard to thy name; for that shall continue with thee above a thousand great treasures of gold.

8 A good life hath but few days: but a good name endureth for ever.

¶ 9 My son, according to thy ability do good to thyself, and give the Lord his due offering.

10 Remember that death will not be long in coming, and that the covenant of the grave is not shewed unto thee.

11 Do good unto thy friend before thou die, and according to thy ability stretch out thy hand and give to him.

12 Defraud not thyself of the good day, and let not the part of a good desire overpass thee.

13 Shalt thou not leave thy travails unto another? and thy labours to be divided by lot?

14 Give, and take, and sanctify thy soul; for there is no seeking of dainties in the grave.

15 Who shall praise the Most High in the grave, instead of them which live and give thanks?

16 Thanksgiving perisheth from the dead, as from one that is not: the living and sound in heart shall praise the Lord.

17 O Lord, look down from thine holy house, and consider us: bow down thine ear, O Lord, to hear us.

18 Open thine eyes and behold; for the dead that are in the graves, whose souls are taken from their bodies, will give unto the Lord neither praise nor righteousness:

19 But the soul that is greatly vexed, which goeth stooping and feeble, and the eyes that fail, and the hungry soul, will give thee praise and righteousness, O Lord.

¶ 20 All flesh waxeth old as a garment: for the covenant from the beginning is, Thou shalt die the death.

21 As of the green leaves on a thick tree, some fall, and some grow; so is the generation of flesh and blood, one cometh to an end, and another is born.

22 Every work rotteth and consumeth away, and the worker thereof shall go withal.

23 All that are of the earth shall turn to earth again: and he that is today a king tomorrow shall die.

24 For all men have one entrance into life, and the like going out.

25 And the entrances of this world were made narrow, full of sorrow and travail: they are but few and evil, full of perils, and very painful.

26 And we pass away out of the world as grasshoppers, and our life is astonishment and fear, and we are not worthy to obtain mercy.

27 But if so be that we will subdue our own understanding, and reform our hearts, we shall be kept alive, and after death we shall obtain mercy.

28 For after death shall the judgement come, when we shall live again: and then shall the names of the righteous be manifest, and the works of the ungodly shall be declared.

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SECTION VII.—*Penitence.*

LESSON XIII.

I PRAY thee, O God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the heavens and earth, Creator of the waters, King of every creature, hear thou my prayer.

2 Hear my prayer, and be merciful unto thine inheritance: turn our sorrow into joy, that we may live, O Lord, and praise thy name: and destroy not the mouths of them that praise thee, O Lord.

3 O Lord, I am confounded and ashamed before thy face;

4 For our sins are multiplied above our heads, and our ignorances have reached up unto heaven.

5 For ever since the time of our fathers we have been, and are, in great sin, even unto this day.

6 Behold, now are we before thee in our iniquities, for we cannot stand any longer by reason of these things before thee.

7 And all that is befallen is done unto us for our wicked works and great sins: for thou, O Lord, didst make our sins light.

¶8 I know, Lord, that the Most High is called merciful, in that he hath mercy upon them which are not yet come into the world,

9 And upon those also that turn to his law;

10 And that he is patient, and long suffereth those that have sinned, as his creatures;

11 And that he is bountiful, for he is ready to give where it needeth;

12 And that he is of great mercy, for he multiplieth more and more mercies to them that are present, and that are past, and also to them which are to come.

13 For if he shall not multiply his mercies, the world would not continue with them that inherit therein.

14 And he pardoneth; for if he did not so of his goodness, that they which have committed iniquities might be eased of them, the ten thousandth part of men should not remain living.

15 And being judge, if he should not forgive them that are cured with his word, and put out the multitude of contentions,

16 There should be very few left peradventure in an innumerable multitude.

17 But unto them that repent, he granteth them return, and comforteth those that fail in patience.

¶18 Return unto the Lord, and forsake thy sins, make thy prayer before his face, and offend less.

19 Turn again to the Most High, and turn away from iniquity: for he will lead thee out of darkness into the light of health.

20 How great is the loving-kindness of the Lord our God, and his compassion unto such as turn unto him in holiness!

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21 He hath mercy on them that receive discipline, and that diligently seek after his judgements.

LESSON XIV.

O Lord, thou that dwellest in everlastingness, which beholdest from above things in the heaven and in the air;

2 Whose throne is inestimable; whose glory may not be comprehended; before whom the hosts of angels stand with trembling;

3 Whose service is conversant in wind and fire; whose word is true, and sayings constant; whose commandment is strong, and ordinance fearful;

4 Whose look drieth up the depths, and indignation maketh the mountains to melt away;

5 O hear the prayer of thy servant, and give ear to the petition of thy creature.

6 For while I live I will speak, and so long as I have understanding I will answer.

7 O look not upon the sins of thy people; but on them which serve thee in truth.

8 Regard not the wicked inventions of the heathen, but the desire of those that keep thy testimonies in afflictions.

9 Think not upon those that have walked feignedly before thee: but remember them, which according to thy will have known thy fear.

10 Let it not be thy will to destroy them which have lived like beasts; but to look upon them that have clearly taught thy law.

11 Take thou no indignation at them which are deemed worse than beasts; but love them that alway put their trust in thy righteousness and glory.

12 For we and our fathers do languish of such diseases: but because of us sinners thou shalt be called merciful.

13 For if thou hast a desire to have mercy upon us, thou shalt be called merciful, to us namely, that have no works of righteousness.

14 For the just, which have many good works laid up with thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward.

15 For what is man, that thou shouldest take displeasure at him? or what is a corruptible generation, that thou shouldest be so bitter toward it?

16 For in truth there is no man among them that be born, but he hath dealt wickedly; and among the faithful there is none which hath not done amiss.

17 For in this, O Lord, thy righteousness and thy goodness shall be declared, if thou be merciful unto them which have not the confidence of good works.

LESSON XV.

O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, the soul in anguish, the troubled spirit, crieth unto thee.

2 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy; for thou art merciful: and have pity upon us, because we have sinned before thee.

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3 For thou endurest for ever, and we perish utterly.

4 O Lord Almighty, thou God of Israel, hear now the prayers of the dead Israelites, and of their children, which have sinned before thee, and not hearkened unto the voice of thee their God.

5 Remember not the iniquities of our forefathers: but think upon thy power and thy name now at this time.

6 For thou art the Lord our God, and thee, O Lord, will we praise.

7 And for this cause thou hast put thy fear in our hearts, to the intent that we should call upon thy name, and praise thee in our captivity: for we have called to mind all the iniquity of our forefathers, that sinned before thee.

8 Behold, we are yet this day in our captivity, where thou hast scattered us, for a reproach and a curse, and to be subject to payments, according to all the iniquities of our fathers, which departed from the Lord our God.

¶ 9 Hear, Israel, the commandments of life: give ear to understand wisdom.

10 How happeneth it, Israel, that thou art in thine enemies' land, that thou art waxen old in a strange country, that thou art defiled with the dead,

11 That thou art counted with them that go down into the grave?

12 Thou hast forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

13 For if thou hadst walked in the way of God, thou shouldest have dwelled in peace for ever.

14 But thou hast afflicted the meek, thou hast hurt the peaceable, thou hast loved liars, and destroyed the dwellings of them that brought forth fruit, and hast cast down the walls of such as did thee no harm.

15 Therefore is thy wrongful dealing come up unto the Highest, and thy pride unto the Mighty.

¶ 16 O Lord, thou art just, and all thy works and all thy ways are mercy and truth, and thou judgest truly and justly for ever.

17 Remember me, and look on me, punish me not for my sins and ignorances, and the sins of my fathers, who have sinned before thee:

18 For they obeyed not thy commandments: wherefore thou hast delivered us for a spoil, and unto captivity, and unto death, and for a proverb of reproach to all the nations among whom we are dispersed.

19 And now thy judgements are many and true: deal with me according to my sins and my fathers': because we have not kept thy commandments, neither have walked in truth before thee.

20 Now therefore deal with me as seemeth best unto thee, and command my spirit to be taken from me, that I may be dissolved, and become earth: for it is profitable for me to die rather than to live, because I have heard false reproaches, and

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have much sorrow: command therefore that I may now be delivered out of this distress, and go into the everlasting place: turn not thy face away from me.

SECTION VIII.—*Trust in God.*

LESSON XVI.

MY son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.

2 Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble.

3 Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be increased at thy last end.

4 There shall no evil happen unto him that feareth the Lord; but in temptation even he will deliver him.

5 Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate.

6 For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.

7 Believe in him, and he will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in him.

8 Ye that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and go not aside, lest ye fall. Do that which is good, and no evil shall touch you.

9 Ye that fear the Lord, believe him; and your reward shall not fail.

10 Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy.

11 Look at the generations of old, and see; did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him?

12 For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction.

¶13 Woe be to fearful hearts, and faint hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways!

14 For wickedness, condemned by her own witness, is very timorous, and being pressed with conscience, always forecasteth grievous things.

15 For fear is nothing else but a betraying of the succours which reason offereth.

16 Woe unto him that is fainthearted! for he believeth not; therefore shall he not be defended.

17 Woe unto you that have lost patience! and what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you?

18 They that fear the Lord will not disobey his word; and they that love him will keep his ways.

19 They that fear the Lord will seek that which is well-pleasing unto him; and they that love him shall be filled with the law.

20 They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in his sight,

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21 Saying, We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men: for as his majesty is, so is his mercy.

¶22 And thus consider ye throughout all ages, that none that put their trust in him shall be overcome.

23 Fear not then the words of a sinful man: for his glory shall be dung and worms.

24 Today he shall be lifted up, and tomorrow he shall not be found, because he is returned into his dust, and his thought is come to nothing.

25 Wherefore be valiant, and show yourselves men in the behalf of the law; for by it shall ye obtain glory.

26 The fear of the Lord is honour, and glory, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.

27 The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart, and giveth joy, and gladness, and a long life.

28 Whoso feareth the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last, and he shall find favour in the day of his death.

29 To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and it was created with the faithful in the womb.

30 The fear of the Lord driveth away sins: and where it is present, it turneth away wrath.

31 Riches and strength lift up the heart: but the fear of the Lord is above them both: there is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needeth not to seek help.

32 Therefore let us wait for salvation of him, and call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it please him.

¶33 Love him that made thee with all thy strength, and forsake not his ministers.

34 The spirit of those that fear the Lord shall live; for their hope is in him that saveth them.

35 Whoso feareth the Lord shall not fear nor be afraid; for He is his hope.

36 Blessed is the soul of him that feareth the Lord: to whom doth he look? and who is his strength?

37 For the eyes of the Lord are upon them that love him, he is their mighty protection and strong stay, a defence from heat, and a cover from the sun at noon, a preservation from stumbling, and an help from falling.

38 He raiseth up the soul, and lighteneth the eyes: he giveth health, life, and blessing.

39 With the God of heaven it is all one, to deliver with a great multitude, or a small company:

40 For the victory of battle standeth not in the multitude of an host; but strength cometh from heaven.

LESSON XVII.

Hear, O ye my beloved, saith the Lord: behold, the days of trouble are at hand, but I will deliver you from the same.

2 Be ye not afraid, neither doubt; for God is your guide,

3 And the guide of them who

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keep my commandments and precepts, saith the Lord God: let not your sins weigh you down, and let not your iniquities lift up themselves.

4 Abide still, O my people, and take thy rest, for thy quietness shall come.

5 Nourish thy children, O thou good nurse; stablish their feet.

6 As for the servants whom I have given thee, there shall not one of them perish; for I will require them from among thy number.

7 Be not weary: for when the day of trouble and heaviness cometh, others shall weep and be sorrowful, but thou shalt be merry and have abundance.

8 The heathen shall envy thee, but they shall be able to do nothing against thee, saith the Lord.

9 My hands shall cover thee, so that thy children shall not see hell.

10 Be joyful, O thou mother, with thy children; for I will deliver thee, saith the Lord.

11 Remember thy children that sleep, for I shall bring them out of the sides of the earth, and shew mercy unto them: for I am merciful, saith the Lord Almighty.

12 Embrace thy children until I come and shew mercy unto them: for my wells run over, and my grace shall not fail.

SECTION IX.—*Fate of the Righteous and of the Wicked contrasted.*

LESSON XVIII.

BLESSED is the man that hath not slipped with his mouth, and is not pricked with the multitude of sins.

2 Blessed is he whose conscience hath not condemned him, and who is not fallen from his hope in the Lord.

3 Be steadfast in thy covenant, and be conversant therein, and wax old in thy work.

4 Marvel not at the works of sinners; but trust in the Lord, and abide in thy labour: for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord on the sudden to make a poor man rich.

5 Envy not the glory of a sinner: for thou knowest not what shall be his end.

6 Delight not in the thing that the ungodly have pleasure in; but remember they shall not go unpunished unto their grave.

7 The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly he maketh his blessing to flourish.

8 Say not, What profit is there of my service? and what good things shall I have hereafter?

9 Again, say not, I have enough, and possess many things, and what evil can come to me hereafter?

10 In the day of prosperity

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there is a forgetfulness of affliction: and in the day of affliction there is no more remembrance of prosperity.

11 The affliction of an hour maketh a man forget pleasure: and in his end his deeds shall be discovered.

12 For it is an easy thing unto the Lord in the day of death to reward a man according to his ways.

13 Judge none blessed before his death: for a man shall be known in his children.

14 Better it is to have no children, and to have virtue: for the memorial thereof is immortal; because it is known with God and with men.

15 When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone, they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards.

¶16 There is one that laboureth and taketh pains, and maketh haste, and is so much the more behind.

17 Again, there is another that is slow, and hath need of help, wanting ability, and full of poverty; yet the eye of the Lord looked upon him for good, and set him up from his low estate,

18 And lifted up his head from misery; so that many that saw it marvelled at him.

19 Prosperity and adversity, life and death, poverty and riches, come of the Lord.

20 Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the law, are of the Lord: love, and the way of good works, are from him.

21 Error and darkness had their beginning together with sinners: and evil shall wax old with them that glory therein.

22 The gift of the Lord remaineth with the godly, and his favour bringeth prosperity for ever.

23 For glorious is the fruit of good labours: and the root of wisdom shall never fall away.

LESSON XIX.

Say not thou, It is through the Lord that I fell away: for thou oughtest not to do the things that he hateth.

2 Say not thou, He hath caused me to err: for he hath no need of the sinful man.

3 The Lord hateth all abomination; and they that fear God love it not.

4 He himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of his counsel:

5 If he will, to keep the commandments, and to perform acceptable faithfulness.

6 He hath set fire and water before thee: stretch forth thy hand unto whether thou wilt.

7 Before man is life and death; and whether him liketh shall be given him.

8 For the wisdom of the Lord is great, and he is mighty in power, and beholdeth all things:

9 And his eyes are upon them that fear him, and he knoweth every work of man.

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10 He hath commanded no man to do wickedly, neither hath he given any man license to sin.

11 Where a man sinneth, by the same also shall he be punished: for the empty are empty things, and for the full are the full things.

12 Now therefore why disquietest thou thyself, seeing thou art but a corruptible man? and why art thou moved, whereas thou art but mortal?

13 Why hast thou not considered in thy mind this thing that is to come, rather than that which is present?

¶ 14 Then answered I and said, O Lord, that bearest rule, thou hast ordained in thy law, that the righteous should inherit these things, but that the ungodly should perish.

15 Nevertheless the righteous shall suffer strait things, and hope for wide: for they that have done wickedly have suffered the strait things and yet shall not see the wide.

16 And he said unto me, There is no judge above God, and none that hath understanding above the Highest.

17 For there be many that perish in this life, because they despise the law of God that is set before them.

18 For God hath given strait commandment to such as came, what they should do to live, even as they came, and what they should observe to avoid punishment.

19 Nevertheless they were not obedient unto him; but spake against him and imagined vain things;

20 And deceived themselves by their wicked deeds; and said of the Most High, that he is not; and knew not his ways:

21 But his law have they despised, and denied his covenant; in his statutes have they not been faithful, and have not performed his works.

LESSON XX.

Seek not death in the error of your life: and pull not upon yourselves destruction with the works of your hands.

2 For God made not death: neither hath he pleasure in the destruction of the living.

3 For he created all things, that they might have their being: and the generations of the world were healthful; and there is no poison of destruction in them, nor the kingdom of death upon the earth:

4 (For righteousness is immortal:)

5 But ungodly men with their works and words called it to them: for when they thought to have it their friend, they consumed to naught, and made a covenant with it, because they are worthy to take part with it.

6 For the ungodly said, reasoning with themselves, but not aright, Our life is short and tedious, and in the death of a man there is no remedy: neither was there any man known to have returned from the grave.

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7 For we are born at all adventure: and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been: for the breath in our nostrils is as smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart;

8 Which being extinguished, our body shall be turned into ashes, and our spirit shall vanish as the soft air:

9 And our name shall be forgotten in time, and no man shall have our works in remembrance, and our life shall pass away as the trace of a cloud, and shall be dispersed as a mist that is driven away with the beams of the sun, and overcome with the heat thereof.

10 For our time is a very shadow that passeth away; and after our end there is no returning: for it is fast sealed, so that no man cometh again.

11 Come on therefore, let us enjoy the good things that are present: and let us speedily use the creatures like as in youth.

12 Let us fill ourselves with costly wine and ointments: and let no flower of the spring pass by us:

13 Let us crown ourselves with rosebuds, before they be withered:

14 Let none of us go without his part of our voluptuousness: let us leave tokens of our joyfulness in every place: for this is our portion, and our lot is this.

15 Let us oppress the poor righteous man, let us not spare the widow, nor reverence the ancient gray hairs of the aged.

16 Let our strength be the law of justice; for that which is feeble is found to be nothing worth.

17 Therefore let us lie in wait for the righteous; because he is not for our turn, and he is clean contrary to our doings: he upbraideth us with our offending the law, and objecteth to our infamy the transgressings of our education.

18 He professeth to have the knowledge of God: and he calleth himself the child of the Lord.

19 He was made to reprove our thoughts.

20 He is grievous unto us even to behold; for his life is not like other men's, his ways are of another fashion.

21 We are esteemed of him as counterfeits: he abstaineth from our ways as from filthiness: he pronounceth the end of the just to be blessed, and maketh his boast that God is his father.

22 Let us see if his words be true: and let us prove what shall happen in the end of him.

23 For if the just man be the son of God, he will help him, and deliver him from the hand of his enemies.

24 Let us examine him with despitefulness and torture, that we may know his meekness, and prove his patience.

25 Let us condemn him with a shameful death: for by his own saying he shall be respected.

¶ 26 Such things they did imagine, and were deceived:

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for their own wickedness hath blinded them.

27 As for the mysteries of God, they knew them not: neither hoped they for the wages of righteousness, nor discerned a reward for blameless souls.

28 For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity.

LESSON XXI.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

2 In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery,

3 And their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace.

4 For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.

5 And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for himself.

6 As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt offering.

7 And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble.

8 They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign for ever.

9 They that put their trust in him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with him: for grace and mercy is to his saints, and he hath care for his elect.

10 But the ungodly shall be punished according to their own imaginations, which have neglected the righteous, and forsaken the Lord.

11 For whoso despiseth wisdom and nurture, he is miserable; and their hope is vain, their labours unfruitful, and their works unprofitable:

12 For the hope of the unthankful shall melt away as the winter's hoar frost, and shall run away as unprofitable water.

13 But though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest.

14 For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years.

15 But wisdom is gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

¶16 The righteous was speedily taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul.

17 He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time:

18 For his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hasted he to take him away from among the wicked.

19 This the people saw, and understood it not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That his grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect unto his chosen.

20 Thus the righteous that

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is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living; and youth that is soon perfected, the many years and old age of the unrighteous.

21 For they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in his counsel hath decreed of him, and to what end the Lord hath set him in safety.

22 They shall see him, and despise him; but God shall laugh them to scorn: and they shall hereafter be a vile carcase, and a reproach among the dead for evermore.

23 For he shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless; and he shall shake them from the foundation; and they shall be utterly laid waste, and be in sorrow; and their memorial shall perish.

24 And when they cast up the accounts of their sins, they shall come with fear: and their own iniquities shall convince them to their face.

LESSON XXII.

Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labours.

2 When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for.

3 And they, repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit, shall say within themselves, This was he, whom we had sometimes in derision, and a proverb of reproach.

4 We fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honour.

5 How is he numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints!

6 Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us.

7 We wearied ourselves in the way of wickedness and destruction: yea, we have gone through deserts, where there lay no way: but as for the way of the Lord, we have not known it.

8 What hath pride profited us? or what good hath riches with our vaunting brought us?

9 All those things are passed away like a shadow, and as a post that hasted by;

10 And as a ship that passeth over the waves of the water, which when it is gone by, the trace thereof cannot be found, neither the pathway of the keel in the waves;

11 Or as when a bird hath flown through the air, there is no token of her way to be found, but the light air being beaten with the stroke of her wings, and parted with the violent noise and motion of them, is passed through, and therein afterwards no sign where she went is to be found:

12 Or like as when an arrow is shot at a mark, it parteth the

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air, which immediately cometh together again, so that a man cannot know where it went through:

13 Even so we, in like manner, as soon as we were born, began to draw to our end, and had no sign of virtue to shew; but were consumed in our own wickedness.

14 For the hope of the ungodly is like dust that is blown away with the wind; like a thin froth that is driven away with the storm; like as the smoke which is dispersed here and there with a tempest, and passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day.

15 But the righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High.

16 Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand: for with his right hand shall he cover them, and with his arm shall he protect them.

17 He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgement instead of an helmet.

18 He shall take holiness for an invincible shield.

19 His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with him against the unwise.

20 Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark.

21 And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast as out of a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them.

22 Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away: thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty.

SECTION X.—*Duty to Parents.*

LESSON XXIII.

HEAR me your father, O children, and do thereafter, that ye may be safe.

2 For the Lord hath given the father honour over the children, and hath confirmed the authority of the mother over the sons.

3 Whoso honoureth his father maketh an atonement for his sins:

4 And he that honoureth his mother is as one that layeth up treasure.

5 Whoso honoureth his father shall have joy of his own children; and when he maketh his prayer, he shall be heard.

6 He that honoureth his father shall have a long life; and he that is obedient unto the Lord shall be a comfort to his mother.

7 He that feareth the Lord

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will honour his father, and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters.

8 Honour thy father and mother both in word and deed, that a blessing may come upon thee from them.

9 For the blessing of the father establisheth the houses of children; but the curse of the mother rooteth out foundations.

10 Glory not in the dishonour of thy father; for thy father's dishonour is no glory unto thee.

11 For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father; and a mother in dishonour is a reproach to the children.

¶ 12 My son, help thy father in his age, and grieve him not as long as he liveth.

13 And if his understanding fail, have patience with him; and despise him not when thou art in thy full strength.

14 For the relieving of thy father shall not be forgotten: and instead of sins it shall be added to build thee up.

15 In the day of thine affliction it shall be remembered; thy sins also shall melt away, as the ice in the fair warm weather.

16 He that forsaketh his father is as a blasphemer; and he that angereth his mother is cursed of God.

17 An evil-nurtured son is the dishonour of his father that begat him: and a foolish daughter is born to his loss.

18 Honour thy father with thy whole heart, and forget not the sorrows of thy mother.

19 For how canst thou recompense them the things that they have done for thee?

20 Despise not thy mother, but honour her all the days of thy life, and do that which shall please her, and grieve her not.

21 Remember, my son, that she saw many dangers for thee, when thou wast in her womb.

Section XI.—*Duty to Friends.*

LESSON XXIV.

Change not a friend for any good, by no means; neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir.

2 Forgo not a wise and good woman: for her grace is above gold.

3 A silent and loving woman is a gift of the Lord; and there is nothing so much worth as a mind well instructed.

4 Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not comparable unto him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure.

5 Sweet language will multiply friends: and a fair-speaking tongue will increase kind greetings.

6 Be in peace with many: nevertheless have but one counsellor of a thousand.

7 If thou wouldest get a friend, prove him first, and be not hasty to credit him.

8 For some man is a friend

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for his own occasion, and will not abide in the day of thy trouble.

9 And there is a friend, who, being turned to enmity and strife, will discover thy reproach.

10 Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will not continue in the day of thy affliction.

11 But in thy prosperity he will be as thyself, and will be bold over thy servants.

12 If thou be brought low, he will be against thee, and will hide himself from thy face.

13 Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.

¶ 14 A faithful friend is a strong defence: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.

15 Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is invaluable.

16 A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find him.

17 Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright: for as he is, so shall his neighbour be also.

18 Admonish a friend, it may be he hath not done it; and if he have done it, that he do it no more.

19 Admonish thy friend, it may be he hath not said it; and if he have, that he speak it not again.

20 Admonish a friend, for many times it is a slander; and believe not every tale.

21 There is one that slippeth in his speech, but not from his heart; and who is he that hath not offended with his tongue?

22 Admonish thy neighbour before thou threaten him; and not being angry, give place to the law of the Most High.

¶ 23 Love thy friend, and be faithful unto him: but if thou bewrayest his secrets, follow no more after him.

24 For as a man hath destroyed his enemy, so hast thou lost the love of thy neighbour.

25 As one that letteth a bird go out of his hand, so hast thou let thy neighbour go, and shalt not get him again.

26 Follow after him no more, for he is too far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare.

27 As for a wound, it may be bound up; and after reviling there may be reconcilement: but he that bewrayeth secrets is without hope.

28 Is it not a grief unto death, when a companion and friend is turned to an enemy?

29 Instead of a friend become not an enemy; for thereby thou shalt inherit an ill name, shame, and reproach.

30 Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.

31 A friend cannot be known in prosperity; and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.

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SECTION XII.—*Honesty and Veracity.*

LESSON XXV.

LOVE righteousness, ye that be judges of the earth: think of the Lord with a good heart, and in simplicity of heart seek him.

2 For he will be found of them that tempt him not; and sheweth himself unto such as do not distrust him.

3 Froward thoughts separate from God: and his power, when it is tried, reproveth the unwise.

4 For into a malicious soul wisdom shall not enter, nor dwell in the body that is subject unto sin.

5 For the holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit, and remove from thoughts that are without understanding; and will not abide when unrighteousness cometh in.

6 For wisdom is a loving spirit, and will not acquit a blasphemer of his words: for God is witness of his reins, and a true beholder of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue.

7 For the Spirit of the Lord filleth the world: and that which containeth all things hath knowledge of the voice.

8 Therefore he that speaketh unrighteous things cannot be hid: neither shall vengeance, when it punisheth, pass by him.

9 For inquisition shall be made into the counsels of the ungodly: and the sound of his words shall come unto the Lord for the manifestation of his wicked deeds.

10 For the ear of jealousy heareth all things: and the noise of murmurings is not hid.

11 Therefore beware of murmuring, which is unprofitable; and refrain your tongue from backbiting: for there is no word so secret, that shall go for naught; and the mouth that belieth slayeth the soul.

¶ 12 Distrust not the fear of the Lord when thou art poor: and come not unto him with a double heart.

13 Be not an hypocrite in the sight of men, and take good heed what thou speakest.

14 Exalt not thyself, lest thou fall, and bring dishonour upon thy soul; and so God discover thy secrets, and cast thee down in the midst of the congregation, because thou camest not in truth to the fear of the Lord, but thy heart is full of deceit.

¶ 15 Devise not a lie against thy brother; neither do the like to thy friend.

16 Use not to make any manner of lie; for the custom thereof is not good.

17 A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught.

18 A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie: but they both shall have destruction to heritage.

19 The disposition of a liar

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is dishonourable, and his shame is ever with him.

¶ 20 Be not called a whisperer, and lie not in wait with thy tongue: for a foul shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double tongue.

21 In no wise speak against the truth; but be abashed of the error of thine ignorance.

22 Be not ashamed to confess thy sins; and force not the course of the river.

23 Observe the opportunity, and beware of evil; and be not ashamed when it concerneth thy soul.

24 For there is a shame that bringeth sin; and there is a shame which is glory and grace.

25 Accept no person against thy soul, and let not the reverence of any man cause thee to fall.

26 And refrain not to speak, when there is occasion to do good, and hide not thy wisdom in her beauty.

27 Winnow not with every wind, and go not into every way: for so doth the sinner that hath a double tongue.

28 Be steadfast in thy understanding; and let thy word be the same.

29 Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord shall fight for thee.

Section XIII.—*Humility.*

LESSON XXVI.

It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal should not proudly think of himself, as if he were God.

2 The beginning of pride is when one departeth from God, and his heart is turned away from his Maker.

3 For pride is the beginning of sin, and he that hath it shall pour out abomination.

4 The Lord hath cast down the thrones of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead.

5 The Lord hath plucked up the roots of the proud nations, and planted the lowly in their place.

6 He took some of them away, and destroyed them, and hath made their memorial to cease from the earth.

7 Pride was not made for men, nor furious anger for them that are born of a woman: why is earth and ashes proud?

8 Pride is hateful before God and man: and by both doth one commit iniquity.

¶ 9 My son, go on with thy business in meekness; so shalt thou be beloved of him that is approved.

10 The greater thou art, the more humble thyself, and thou shalt find favour before the Lord.

11 Follow not thine own mind and thy strength, to walk in the ways of thy heart:

12 And say not, Who shall control me for my works? for

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the Lord will surely chastise thy pride.

13 For the power of the Lord is great, and he is honoured of the lowly.

¶ 14 Extol not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart, but humble thy soul greatly.

15 Seek not out the things that are too hard for thee; neither search the things that are above thy strength.

16 But what is commanded thee, think thereon with reverence; for it is not needful for thee to see with thine eyes the things that are secret.

17 Ask counsel of all that are wise, and despise not any counsel that is profitable.

18 For many are deceived by their own vain opinion; and an evil suspicion hath overthrown their judgement.

19 Without eyes thou shalt want light: profess not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not.

20 A stubborn heart shall fare evil at the last; and he that loveth danger shall perish therein.

21 An obstinate heart shall be laden with sorrows; and the wicked man shall heap sin upon sin.

22 In the punishment of the proud there is no remedy; for the plant of wickedness hath taken root in him.

23 Mockery and reproach are from the proud; but vengeance, as a lion, shall lie in wait for them.

24 Seek not of the Lord preeminence; neither of the king the seat of honour.

25 Justify not thyself before the Lord; and boast not of thy wisdom before the king.

26 Seek not to be judge, being not able to take away iniquity; lest at any time thou fear the person of the mighty, and lay a stumbling block in the way of thy uprightness.

27 Offend not against the multitude of a city, and then thou shalt not cast thyself down among the people.

28 Bind not one sin upon another; for in one thou shalt not be unpunished.

29 Say not, God will look upon the multitude of my oblations, and when I offer to the most high God, he will accept it.

30 O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, but turn away from thy servants always a haughty mind.

Section XIV.—*Humanity.*

LESSON XXVII.

My son, be mindful of the Lord our God all thy days, and let not thy will be set to sin, or to transgress his commandments: do uprightly all thy life long, and follow not the ways of unrighteousness.

2 For if thou deal truly, thy doings shall prosperously succeed to thee, and to all them that live justly.

3 Give alms of thy substance;

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and when thou givest alms, let not thine eye be envious; neither turn thy face from any poor, and the face of God shall not be turned away from thee.

4 If thou hast abundance, give alms accordingly: if thou have but a little, be not afraid to give according to that little:

5 For thou layest up a good treasure for thyself against the day of necessity.

6 Let not the wages of any man, which hath wrought for thee, tarry with thee, but give him it out of hand: for if thou serve God, he will also repay thee: be circumspect, my son, in all things thou doest, and be wise in all thy conversation.

7 Do that to no man which thou hatest: drink not wine to make thee drunken: neither let drunkenness go with thee in thy journey.

8 Give of thy bread to the hungry, and of thy garments to them that are naked.

9 Do right to the widow, judge for the fatherless, give to the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked,

10 Heal the broken and the weak, laugh not a lame man to scorn, defend the maimed, and let the blind man come into the sight of my clearness.

¶ 11 Be not hasty in thy tongue, and in thy deeds slack and remiss.

12 Be not as a lion in thy house, nor frantic among thy servants.

13 Whereas thy servant worketh truly, entreat him not evil, nor the hireling that bestoweth himself wholly for thee.

14 Let thy soul love a good servant, and defraud him not of liberty.

15 A furious man cannot be justified; for the sway of his fury shall be his destruction.

16 A patient man will bear for a time, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him.

17 He will hide his words for a time, and the lips of many shall declare his wisdom.

18 And he that requiteth good turns is mindful of that which may come hereafter; and when he falleth, he shall find a stay.

19 Abstain from strife, and thou shalt diminish thy sins: for a furious man will kindle strife.

20 A sinful man disquieteth friends, and maketh debate among them that be at peace.

LESSON XXVIII.

Keep thou the law and the commandments, and shew thyself merciful and just, that it may go well with thee.

2 For the Lord is judge; and with him is no respect of persons.

3 He will not accept any person against a poor man, but will hear the prayer of the oppressed.

4 He will not despise the supplication of the fatherless; nor the widow, when she poureth out her complaint.

5 Do not the tears run down the widow's cheeks? and is not

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her cry against him that causeth them to fall?

6 He that serveth the Lord shall be accepted with favour, and his prayer shall reach unto the clouds.

7 The prayer of the humble pierceth the clouds: and till it come nigh, he will not be comforted; and will not depart, till the Most High shall behold to judge righteously, and execute judgement.

8 For the Lord will not be slack, neither will the Mighty be patient toward them, till he have smitten in sunder the loins of the unmerciful; till he have taken away the multitude of the proud, and broken the sceptre of the unrighteous;

9 Till he have rendered to every man according to his deeds, and to the works of men according to their devices; till he have judged the cause of his people, and made them to rejoice in his mercy.

¶ 10 He that revengeth shall find vengeance from the Lord; and he will surely keep his sins in remembrance.

11 Forgive thy neighbour the hurt that he hath done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest.

12 One man beareth hatred against another; and doth he seek pardon from the Lord?

13 He sheweth no mercy to a man, which is like himself; and doth he ask forgiveness of his own sins?

14 If he that is but flesh nourish hatred, who will entreat for pardon of his sins?

15 Remember thy end, and let enmity cease; remember corruption and death, and abide in the commandments.

16 Remember the commandments, and bear no malice to thy neighbour: remember the covenant of the Highest, and wink at ignorance.

17 Mercy is seasonable in the time of affliction, as clouds of rain in the time of drought.

Section XV.—*Moderation and Liberality.*

LESSON XXIX.

Set not thy heart upon thy goods; and say not, I have enough for my life.

2 Set not thine heart upon goods unjustly gotten; for they shall not profit thee in the day of calamity.

¶ 3 There is, that waxeth rich by his wariness and pinching, and this is the portion of his reward:

4 Whereas he saith, I have found rest, and now will eat continually of my goods; and yet he knoweth not what time shall come upon him, and that he must leave those things to others, and die.

5 Riches are not comely for a niggard: and what should an envious man do with money?

6 He that gathereth by defrauding his own soul gathereth

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for others, that shall spend his goods riotously.

7 He that is evil to himself, to whom will he be good? he shall not take pleasure in his goods.

8 There is none worse than he that envieth himself; and this is a recompence of his wickedness.

9 And if he doeth good, he doeth it unwillingly; and at the last he will declare his wickedness.

10 The envious man hath a wicked eye; he turneth away his face, and despiseth men.

11 A covetous man's eye is not satisfied with his portion; and the iniquity of the wicked drieth up his soul.

12 A wicked eye envieth his bread, and he is a niggard at his table.

13 He counteth his life a pastime, and his time here a market for gain: for, saith he, I must be getting every way, though it be by evil means.

14 There is not a more wicked thing than a covetous man: for such an one setteth his own soul to sale.

15 Because of unrighteous dealings, injuries, and riches got by deceit, the kingdom is translated from one people to another.

16 A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold.

17 Many have sinned for a small matter; and he that seeketh for abundance will turn his eyes away.

18 As a nail sticketh fast between the joinings of the stones; so doth sin stick close between buying and selling.

19 Unless a man hold himself diligently in the fear of the Lord, his house shall soon be overthrown.

LESSON XXX.

Watching for riches consumeth the flesh, and the care thereof driveth away sleep.

2 Watching care will not let a man slumber, as a sore disease breaketh sleep.

3 Health and good estate of body are above all gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth.

4 There is no riches above a sound body, and no joy above the joy of the heart.

5 He that loveth gold shall not be justified, and he that followeth corruption shall have enough thereof.

6 Gold hath been the ruin of many, and their destruction was present.

7 It is a stumblingblock unto them that sacrifice unto it, and every fool shall be taken therewith.

8 Blessed is the rich that is found without blemish, and hath not gone after gold.

9 Who is he? and we will call him blessed: for wonderful things hath he done among his people.

10 Who hath been tried thereby, and found perfect? then let him glory. Who might offend, and hath not offended?

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or done evil, and hath not done it?

11 His goods shall be established, and the congregation shall declare his alms.

¶ 12 He that is merciful will lend unto his neighbour; and he that strengtheneth his hand keepeth the commandments.

13 Lend to thy neighbour in time of his need; and pay thou thy neighbour again in due season.

14 Keep thy word, and deal faithfully with him, and thou shalt always find the thing that is necessary for thee.

15 Let not thine hand be stretched out to receive, and shut when thou shouldest repay.

16 Many, when a thing was lent them, reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them.

17 Many therefore have refused to lend for other men's ill dealing, fearing to be defrauded.

18 Yet have thou patience with a man in poor estate, and delay not to shew him mercy.

19 Help the poor for the commandment's sake, and turn him not away because of his poverty.

20 Lose thy money for thy brother and thy friend, and let it not rust under a stone, to be lost.

21 Lay up thy treasure according to the commandments of the Most High, and it shall bring thee more profit than gold.

22 Shut up alms in thy storehouses; and it shall deliver thee from all affliction.

23 It shall fight for thee against thine enemies better than a mighty shield and strong spear.

24 Bountifulness is as a most fruitful garden, and mercifulness endureth for ever.

Section XVI.—*Discretion.*

LESSON XXXI.

Speak, young man, if there be need of thee: and yet scarcely when thou art twice asked.

2 Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in few words; be as one that knoweth, and yet holdeth his tongue.

3 If thou be among great men, make not thyself equal with them; and when ancient men are in place, use not many words.

4 Prepare what to say, and so thou shalt be heard: and bind up instruction, and then make answer.

5 If thou hast gathered nothing in thy youth, how canst thou find any thing in thine age?

6 O how comely a thing is judgement for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel!

7 O how comely is the wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honour!

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8 Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory.

9 A wise man instructeth his people; and the fruits of his understanding fail not.

10 The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little business shall become wise.

11 By speech wisdom shall be known: and learning by the word of the tongue.

12 He that can rule his tongue shall live without strife; and he that hateth babbling shall have less evil.

13 Rehearse not unto another that which is told unto thee, and thou shalt fare never the worse.

14 The stroke of the whip maketh marks in the flesh: but the stroke of the tongue breaketh the bones.

¶ 15 My son, blemish not thy good deeds, neither use uncomfortable words when thou givest any thing.

16 Shall not the dew assuage the heat? so is a word better than a gift.

17 Lo, is not a word better than a gift? but both are with a gracious man.

18 A fool will upbraid churlishly, and a gift of the envious consumeth the eyes.

¶ 19 Do nothing without advice; and when thou hast once done, repent not.

20 Go not in a way wherein thou mayest fall, and stumble not among the stones.

21 My son, prove thy soul in thy life, and see what is evil for it, and give not that unto it.

22 For all things are not profitable for all men, neither hath every soul pleasure in every thing.

23 And let the counsel of thine own heart stand: for there is no man more faithful unto thee than it.

24 For a man's mind is sometime wont to tell him more than seven watchmen, that sit above in an high tower.

25 And above all this pray to the Most High, that he will direct thy way in truth.

¶ 26 Let reason go before every enterprise, and counsel before every action.

27 Do no evil, so shall no harm come unto thee.

28 Depart from the unjust, and iniquity shall turn away from thee.

29 The knowledge of wickedness is not wisdom, neither at any time the counsel of sinners prudence.

30 All iniquity is as a two-edged sword, the wounds whereof cannot be healed.

31 Let all things be performed after the law of God diligently unto the most high God.

32 Well is him that hath found prudence, and he that speaketh in the ears of them that will hear.

33 O how great is he that findeth wisdom! yet is there none above him that feareth the Lord.

34 But the love of the Lord passeth all things for illumina-

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tion: he that holdeth it, whereto shall he be likened?

35 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of his love: and faith is the beginning of cleaving unto him.

LESSON XXXII.

Strive not with a mighty man, lest thou fall into his hands.

2 Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh thee: for gold hath destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings.

3 Strive not with a man that is full of tongue, and heap not wood upon his fire.

4 Jest not with a rude man, lest thy ancestors be disgraced.

5 Kindle not the coals of a sinner, lest thou be burnt with the flame of his fire.

6 Rise not up in anger at the presence of an injurious person, lest he lie in wait to entrap thee in thy words.

7 Lend not unto him that is mightier than thyself; for if thou lendest him, count it but lost.

8 Be not surety above thy power: for if thou be surety, take care to pay it.

9 Go not to law with a judge; for they will judge for him according to his honour.

10 Travel not by the way with a bold fellow, lest he become grievous unto thee: for he will do according to his own will, and thou shalt perish with him through his folly.

11 Strive not with an angry man, and go not with him into a solitary place: for blood is as nothing in his sight; and where there is no help, he will overthrow thee.

12 Make not thyself an underling to a foolish man; neither accept the person of the mighty.

13 Consult not with a fool; for he cannot keep counsel.

14 Do no secret thing before a stranger; for thou knowest not what he will bring forth.

15 Open not thine heart to every man, lest he requite thee with a shrewd turn.

16 Bring not every man into thine house; for the deceitful man hath many trains.

17 Like as a partridge taken and kept in a cage, so is the heart of the proud; and like as a spy, watcheth he for thy fall:

18 For he lieth in wait, and turneth good into evil, and in things worthy praise will lay blame upon thee.

19 Of a spark of fire a heap of coals is kindled: and a sinful man layeth wait for blood.

20 Take heed of a mischievous man, for he worketh wickedness; lest he bring upon thee a perpetual blot.

21 Receive a stranger into thine house, and he will disturb thee, and turn thee out of thine own.

¶ 22 If thou love to hear, thou shalt receive understanding: and if thou bow thine ear, thou shalt be wise.

23 Be swift to hear; and let thy life be sincere; and with patience give answer.

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24 If thou hast understanding, answer thy neighbour; if not, lay thy hand upon thy mouth.

25 Honour and shame is in talk: and the tongue of man is his fall.

26 Blame not before thou hast examined the truth: understand first, and then rebuke.

27 Answer not before thou hast heard the cause: neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk.

28 Strive not in a matter that concerneth thee not; and sit not in judgement with sinners.

29 My son, meddle not with many matters: for if thou meddle much, thou shalt not be innocent; and if thou follow after, thou shalt not obtain, neither shalt thou escape by fleeing.

30 Never trust thine enemy: for like as iron rusteth, so is his wickedness.

31 Though he humble himself, and go crouching, yet take good heed and beware of him; and thou shalt be unto him as if thou hadst wiped a looking-glass, and thou shalt know that his rust hath not been altogether wiped away.

32 Set him not by thee, lest, when he hath overthrown thee, he stand up in thy place: neither let him sit at thy right hand, lest he seek to take thy seat, and thou at the last remember my words, and be pricked therewith.

33 Who will pity a charmer that is bitten with a serpent, or any such as come nigh wild beasts?

34 So one that goeth to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins, who will pity?

35 For a while he will abide with thee, but if thou begin to fall, he will not tarry.

36 An enemy speaketh sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagineth how to throw thee into a pit: he will weep with his eyes, but if he find opporunity, he will not he satisfied with blood.

37 If adversity come upon thee, thou shalt find him there first; and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thee.

38 He will shake his head, and clap his hands, and whispér much, and change his countenance.

39 Keep thee far from the man that hath power to kill; so shalt thou not doubt the fear of death: and if thou come unto him, make no fault, lest he take away thy life presently: remember that thou goest in the midst of snares, and that thou walkest upon the battlements of the city.

¶ 40 As near as thou canst, guess at thy neighbour, and consult with the wise.

41 Let thy talk be with the wise, and all thy communication in the law of the Most High.

42 And let just men eat and drink with thee; and let thy glorying be in the fear of the Lord.

43 For the hand of the arti-

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ficer the work shall be commended: and the wise ruler of the people for his speech.

44 A man of an ill tongue is dangerous in his city; and he that is rash in his talk shall be hated.

LESSON XXXIII.

He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therewith; and he that hath fellowship with a proud man shall be like unto him.

2 Burden not thyself above thy power while thou livest; and have no fellowship with one that is mightier and richer than thyself; for how agree the kettle and the earthen pot together? for if the one be smitten against the other, it shall be broken.

3 The rich man hath done wrong, and yet he threateneth withal: the poor is wronged, and he must entreat also.

4 If thou be for his profit, he will use thee: but if thou have nothing, he will forsake thee.

5 If thou have any thing, he will live with thee; yea, he will make thee bare, and will not be sorry for it.

6 If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee, and smile upon thee, and put thee in hope; he will speak thee fair, and say, What wantest thou?

7 And he will shame thee by his meats, until he have drawn thee dry twice or thrice, and at the last he will laugh thee to scorn: afterward, when he seeth thee, he will forsake thee, and shake his head at thee.

8 Beware that thou be not deceived, and brought down in thy jollity.

9 If thou be invited of a mighty man, withdraw thyself, and so much the more will he invite thee.

10 Press not thou upon him, lest thou be put back; stand not far off, lest thou be forgotten.

11 Affect not to be made equal unto him in talk, and believe not his many words: for with much communication will he tempt thee, and smiling upon thee will get out thy secrets.

12 But cruelly he will lay up thy words, and will not spare to do thee hurt, and to put thee in prison.

13 Observe, and take good heed, for thou walkest in peril of thy overthrowing: when thou hearest these things, awake in thy sleep.

14 What fellowship hath the wolf with the lamb? so the sinner with the godly.

15 What agreement is there between the hyena and a dog? and what peace between the rich and the poor.

16 As the wild ass is the lion's prey in the wilderness: so the rich eat up the poor.

17 As the proud hate humility: so doth the rich abhor the poor.

18 A rich man beginning to fall is held up of his friends: but a poor man being down is thrust also away by his friends.

19 When a rich man is fallen, he hath many helpers: he speak-

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eth things not to be spoken, and yet men justify him: the poor man slipped, and yet they rebuked him too; he spake wisely, and could have no place.

20 When a rich man speaketh, every man holdeth his tongue, and, look, what he saith, they extol it to the clouds: but if the poor man speak, they say, What fellow is this? and if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him.

21 Better is the life of a poor man in a mean cottage, than delicate fare in another man's house.

22 Riches are good unto him that hath no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly.

23 Whether a man be rich or poor, if he have a good heart toward the Lord, he shall at all times rejoice with a cheerful countenance.

24 The heart of a man changeth his countenance, whether it be for good or evil: and a merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.

25 The gladness of the heart is the life of man, and the cheerfulness of the heart prolongeth his days.

26 Bless him that made thee, and hath replenished thee with his good things.

LESSON XXXIV.

A WISE judge will instruct his people; and the government of a prudent man is well ordered.

2 As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officers; and what manner of man the ruler of the city is, such are all they that dwell therein.

3 An unwise king destroyeth his people; but through the prudence of them which are in authority the city shall be inhabited.

4 The power of the earth is in the hand of the Lord; and in due time he will set over it one that is profitable.

5 In the hand of God is the prosperity of man: and upon the person of the scribe shall he lay his honour.

6 The multitude of the wise is the welfare of the world: and a wise king is the upholding of the people.

7 A wise man shall inherit glory among his people, and his name shall be perpetual.

8 Nations shall shew forth his wisdom, and the congregation shall declare his praise.

9 If he die, he shall leave a greater name than a thousand: and if he live, he shall increase it.

10 Love the Lord all thy life, and call upon him for thy salvation.

11 The fear of the Lord goeth before the obtaining of authority: but roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

12 Whether he be rich, noble, or poor, their glory is the fear of the Lord.

13 It is not meet to despise the poor man that hath understanding; neither is it convenient to magnify a sinful man.

14 Great men, and judges, and potentates, shall be honoured; yet is there none of them

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greater than he that feareth the Lord.

15 Unto the servant that is wise shall they that are free do service: and he that hath knowledge will not grudge when he is reformed.

16 Be not overwise in doing thy business; and boast not thyself in the time of thy distress.

¶ 17 Better is he that labourеth, and aboundeth in all things, than he that boasteth himself, and wanteth bread.

18 Hate not laborious work, neither husbandry which the Most High hath ordained.

19 To labour, and to be content with that a man hath, is a sweet life.

20 Number not thyself among the multitude of sinners, but remember that wrath will not tarry long.

21 My son, glorify thy soul in meekness, and give it honour according to the dignity thereof.

22 Who will justify him that sinneth against his own soul? and who will honour him that dishonoureth his own life?

23 The poor man is honoured for his skill, and the rich man is honoured for his riches.

24 He that is honoured in poverty, how much more in riches? and he that is dishonourable in riches, how much more in poverty?

25 When thou hast enough, remember the time of hunger: and when thou art rich, think upon poverty and need.

Section XVII.—*Excellency of Wisdom.*

LESSON XXXV.

My son, gather instruction from thy youth up: so shalt thou find wisdom till thine old age.

2 Come unto her as one that plougheth and soweth, and wait for her good fruits: for thou shalt not toil much in labouring about her, but thou shalt eat of her fruits right soon.

3 She is very unpleasant to the unlearned: he that is without understanding will not remain with her.

4 She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial; and he will cast her from him ere it be long.

5 For wisdom is according to her name, and she is not manifest unto many.

¶ 6 Give ear, my son, receive my advice, and refuse not my counsel,

7 And put thy feet into her fetters, and thy neck into her chain.

8 Bow down thy shoulder, and bear her, and be not grieved with her bonds.

9 Come unto her with thy whole heart, and keep her ways with all thy power.

10 Search, and seek, and she shall be made known unto thee: and when thou hast got hold of her, let her not go.

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11 For at the last thou shalt find her rest, and that shall be turned to thy joy.

12 Then shall her fetters be a strong defence for thee, and her chains a robe of glory.

13 For there is a golden ornament upon her, and her bands are purple lace.

14 Thou shalt put her on as a robe of honour, and shalt put her about thee as a crown of joy.

¶ 15 My son, if thou wilt, thou shalt be taught: and if thou wilt apply thy mind, thou shalt be prudent.

16 If thou love to hear, thou shalt receive understanding: and if thou bow thine ear, thou shalt be wise.

17 Stand in the multitude of the elders; and cleave unto him that is wise.

18 Despise not the discourse of the wise, but acquaint thyself with their proverbs: for of them thou shalt learn instruction.

19 Miss not the discourse of the elders: for they also learned of their fathers, and of them thou shalt learn understanding, and to give answer as need requireth.

20 Be willing to hear every godly discourse; and let not the parables of understanding escape thee.

21 And if thou seest a man of understanding, get thee betimes unto him, and let thy foot wear the steps of his door.

22 Let thy mind be upon the ordinances of the Lord, and meditate continually in his commandments: he shall establish thine heart, and give thee wisdom at thine own desire.

23 The parables of knowledge are in the treasures of wisdom: but godliness is an abomination to a sinner.

24 If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall give her unto thee.

25 For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction: and faith and meekness are his delight.

¶ 26 Wisdom lifteth up the head of him that is of low degree, and maketh him to sit among great men.

27 Blessed is the man that doth meditate good things in wisdom, and that reasoneth of holy things by his understanding.

28 He that considereth her ways in his heart shall also have understanding in her secrets.

29 Go after her as one that traceth, and lie in wait in her ways.

30 He that prieth in at her windows shall also hearken at her doors.

31 He that doth lodge near her house shall also fasten a pin in her walls.

32 He shall pitch his tent nigh unto her, and shall lodge in a lodging where good things are.

33 He shall set his children under her shelter, and shall lodge under her branches.

34 By her he shall be covered from heat, and in her glory shall he dwell.

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LESSON XXXVI.

HEAR therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth.

2 Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations.

3 For power is given you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest, who shall try your works, and search out your counsels.

4 Because being ministers of his kingdom, ye have not judged aright, nor kept the law, nor walked after the counsel of God;

5 Horribly and speedily shall he come upon you: for a sharp judgement shall be to them that be in high places.

6 For mercy will soon pardon the meanest: but mighty men shall be mightily tormented.

7 For he which is Lord over all shall fear no man's person, neither shall he stand in awe of any man's greatness: for he hath made the small and great, and careth for all alike.

8 But a sore trial shall come upon the mighty.

9 Unto you therefore, O kings, do I speak, that ye may learn wisdom, and not fall away.

10 For they that keep holiness holily shall be judged holy: and they that have learned such things shall find what to answer:

11 Wherefore set your affection upon my words; desire them, and ye shall be instructed.

12 Wisdom is glorious, and never fadeth away: yea, she is easily seen of them that love her, and found of such as seek her.

13 She preventeth them that desire her, in making herself first known unto them.

14 Whoso seeketh her early shall have no great travail: for he shall find her sitting at his doors.

15 To think therefore upon her is perfection of wisdom: and whoso watcheth for her shall quickly be without care.

16 For she goeth about seeking such as are worthy of her; sheweth herself favourably unto them in the ways, and meeteth them in every thought.

17 For the very true beginning of her is the desire of discipline; and the care of discipline is love;

18 And love is the keeping of her laws; and the giving heed unto her laws is the assurance of incorruption.

19 And incorruption maketh us near unto God:

20 Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth to a kingdom.

21 If your delight be then in thrones and sceptres, O ye kings of the people, honour wisdom, that ye may reign for evermore.

22 As for wisdom, what she is, and how she came up, I will tell you, and will not hide mysteries from you: but will seek her out from the beginning of her nativity, and bring the knowledge of her into light, and will not pass over the truth.

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LESSON XXXVII.

ALL wisdom cometh from the Lord, and is with him for ever.

2 Who can number the sand of the sea, and the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?

3 Who can find out the height of heaven, and the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and wisdom?

4 Wisdom hath been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.

5 The word of God most high is the fountain of wisdom; and her ways are everlasting commandments.

6 To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed? or who hath known her wise counsels?

7 Unto whom hath the knowledge of wisdom been made manifest? and who hath understood her great experience?

8 There is one wise and greatly to be feared; the Lord sitting upon his throne.

9 He created her, and saw her, and numbered her, and poured her out upon all his works.

10 She is with all flesh according to his gift, and he hath given her to them that love him.

11 She hath built an everlasting foundation with men, and she shall continue with their seed.

12 To fear the Lord is fulness of wisdom, and filleth men with their fruits.

13 She filleth all their house with things desirable, and the garners with her increase.

14 The fear of the Lord is a crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish; both which are the gifts of God: and it enlargeth their rejoicing that love him.

¶ 15 Wisdom raineth down skill and knowledge of understanding, and exalteth them to honour that hold her fast.

16 The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and the branches thereof are long life.

17 He that feareth the Lord will do good; and he that hath the knowledge of the law shall obtain her.

18 And as a mother shall she meet him, and receive him as a wife married of a virgin.

19 With the bread of understanding shall she feed him, and give him the water of wisdom to drink.

20 He shall be stayed upon her, and shall not be moved; and shall rely upon her, and shall not be confounded.

21 She shall exalt him above his neighbours, and in the midst of the congregation shall she open his mouth.

22 He shall find joy and a crown of gladness, and she shall cause him to inherit an everlasting name.

23 But foolish men shall not attain unto her, and sinners shall not see her.

24 For she is far from pride; and men that are liars cannot remember her.

¶ 25 Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, for it was not sent him of the Lord.

26 For praise shall be uttered

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in wisdom, and the Lord will prosper it.

¶ 27 Wisdom exalteth her children, and layeth hold of them that seek her.

28 He that loveth her loveth life; and they that seek to her early shall be filled with joy.

29 He that holdeth her fast shall inherit glory; and wheresoever she entereth, the Lord will bless.

30 They that serve her shall minister to the Holy One: and them that love her the Lord doth love.

31 Whoso giveth ear unto her shall judge the nations: and he that attendeth unto her shall dwell securely.

32 If a man commit himself unto her, he shall inherit her; and his generation shall hold her in possession.

33 For at the first she will walk with him by crooked ways, and bring fear and dread upon him, and torment him with her discipline; until she may trust his soul, and try him by her laws.

34 Then will she return the straight way unto him, and comfort him, and shew him her secrets.

LESSON XXXVIII.

Wisdom shall praise herself, and shall glory in the midst of her people.

2 In the congregation of the Most High shall she open her mouth, and triumph before his power.

¶ 3 I came out of the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth as a cloud.

4 I dwelt in high places, and my throne is in a cloudy pillar.

5 I alone compassed the circuit of heaven, and walked in the bottom of the deep.

6 In the waves of the sea, and in all the earth, and in every people and nation, I got a possession.

7 With all these I sought rest: and in whose inheritance shall I abide?

8 He created me from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.

9 In the holy tabernacle I served before him; and so was I established in Sion.

10 Likewise in the beloved city he gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power.

11 I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress tree upon the mountains of Hermon.

12 I was exalted like a palm tree in Engaddi, and as a rose plant in Jericho, as a fair olive tree in a pleasant field, and grew up as a plane tree by the water.

13 I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus, and I yielded a pleasant odour like the best myrrh, as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax, and as the fume of frankincense in the tabernacle.

14 As the turpentine tree I stretched out my branches, and my branches are the branches of honour and grace.

15 As the vine brought I forth pleasant savour, and my

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flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.

16 I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I therefore, being eternal, am given to all my children which are named of him.

¶ 17 Come unto me, all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruits.

18 For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance than the honeycomb.

19 They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.

20 He that obeyeth me shall never be confounded, and they that work by me shall not do amiss.

21 Faint not to be strong in the Lord; that he may confirm you, cleave unto him: for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and beside him there is no other saviour.

22 He filleth all things with his wisdom, as Phison and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits.

23 He maketh the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of the harvest.

24 He maketh the doctrine of knowledge appear as the light, and as Geon in the time of vintage.

25 The first man knew her not perfectly: no more shall the last find her out.

26 For her thoughts are more than the sea, and her counsels profounder than the great deep.

27 I also came out as a brook from a river, and as a conduit into a garden.

28 I said, I will water my best garden, and will water abundantly my garden bed: and, lo, my brook became a river, and my river became a sea.

29 I will yet make doctrine to shine as the morning, and will send forth her light afar off.

30 I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and leave it to all ages for ever.

31 Behold that I have not laboured for myself only, but for all them that seek wisdom.

LESSON XXXIX.

Learn where is wisdom, where is strength, where is understanding; that thou mayest know also where is length of days, and life, where is the light of the eyes, and peace.

2 Who hath found out her place? or who hath come into her treasures?

3 Where are the princes of the heathen become, and such as ruled the beasts upon the earth;

4 They that had their pastime with the fowls of the air, and they that hoarded up silver and gold, wherein men trust, and made no end of their getting?

5 For they that wrought in silver, and were so careful, and whose works are unsearchable,

6 They are vanished and gone down to the grave, and others are come up in their steads.

7 Young men have seen light,

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and dwelt upon the earth: but the way of knowledge have they not known,

8 Nor understood the paths thereof, nor laid hold of it: their children were far off from that way.

¶ 9 Who hath gone up into heaven, and taken her, and brought her down from the clouds?

10 Who hath gone over the sea, and found her, and will bring her for pure gold?

11 No man knoweth her way, nor thinketh of her path.

12 But He that knoweth all things knoweth her, and hath found her out with his understanding: He that prepared the earth for evermore hath filled it with fourfooted beasts:

13 He that sendeth forth light, and it goeth, calleth it again, and it obeyeth him with fear.

14 The stars shined in their watches, and rejoiced: when He calleth them, they say, Here we be; and so with cheerfulness they shewed light unto him that made them.

15 This is our God, and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison of him.

16 The fear of the Lord is all wisdom; and in all wisdom is the performance of the law, and the knowledge of his omnipotency.

LESSON XL.

I CALLED upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that he would not leave me in the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud, when there was no help.

2 I will praise thy name continually, and will sing praise with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard:

3 For thou savedst me from destruction, and deliveredst me from the evil time: therefore will I give thanks, and praise thee, and bless thy name, O Lord.

4 When I was yet young, or ever I went abroad, I desired wisdom openly in my prayer.

5 I prayed for her before the temple, and will seek her out even to the end.

6 Even from the flower till the grape was ripe hath my heart delighted in her: my foot went the right way, from my youth up sought I after her.

7 I bowed down mine ear a little, and received her, and gat much learning.

8 I profited therein, therefore will I ascribe the glory unto him that giveth me wisdom.

9 For I purposed to do after her, and earnestly I followed that which is good; so shall I not be confounded.

10 My soul hath wrestled with her, and in my doings I was exact: I stretched forth my hands to the heaven above, and bewailed my ignorances of her.

11 I directed my soul unto her, and I found her in pureness: I have had my heart joined with her from the beginning, therefore shall I not be forsaken.

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12 My heart was troubled in seeking her: therefore have I gotten a good possession.

13 The Lord hath given me a tongue for my reward, and I will praise him therewith.

14 Draw near unto me, ye unlearned, and dwell in the house of learning.

15 Wherefore are ye slow, and what say ye of these things, seeing your souls are very thirsty?

16 I opened my mouth, and said, Buy her for yourselves without money.

17 Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive instruction: she is hard at hand to find.

18 Behold with your eyes, how that I have had but little labour, and have gotten unto me much rest.

19 Get learning with a great sum of money, and get much gold by her.

20 Let your soul rejoice in his mercy, and be not ashamed of his praise.

21 Work your work betimes, and in his time he will give you your reward.

LESSON XLI.

I PRAYED, and understanding was given me: I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

2 I preferred her before sceptres and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her.

3 Neither compared I unto her any precious stone, because all gold in respect of her is as a little sand, and silver shall be counted as clay before her.

4 I loved her above health and beauty, and chose to have her instead of light: for the light that cometh from her never goeth out.

5 All good things together came to me with her, and innumerable riches in her hands.

6 And I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom goeth before them: and I knew not that she was the mother of them.

7 I learned diligently, and do communicate her liberally: I do not hide her riches.

8 For she is a treasure unto men that never faileth: which they that use become the friends of God, being commended for the gifts that come from learning.

9 God hath granted me to speak as I would, and to conceive as is meet for the things that are given me: because it is he that leadeth unto wisdom, and directeth the wise.

10 For in his hand are both we and our words; all wisdom also, and knowledge of workmanship.

11 For he hath given me certain knowledge of the things that are, namely, to know how the world was made, and the operation of the elements:

12 The beginning, ending, and midst of the times: the alterations of the turning of the sun, and the change of seasons:

13 The circuits of years, and the positions of stars:

14 The natures of living creatures, and the furies of wild beasts: the violence of winds,

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and the reasonings of men: the diversities of plants, and the virtues of roots:

15 And all such things as are either secret or manifest, them I know.

16 For wisdom, which is the worker of all things, taught me: for in her is an understanding spirit, holy, one only, manifold, subtil, lively, clear, undefiled, plain, not subject to hurt, loving the thing that is good, quick, which cannot be letted, ready to do good,

17 Kind to man, steadfast, sure, free from care, having all power, overseeing all things, and going through all understanding, pure, and most subtil, spirits.

18 For wisdom is more moving than any motion: she passeth and goeth through all things by reason of her pureness.

19 For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure influence flowing from the glory of the Almighty: therefore can no defiled thing fall into her.

20 For she is the brightness of the everlasting light, the unspotted mirror of the power of God, and the image of his goodness.

21 And being but one, she can do all things: and remaining in herself, she maketh all things new: and in all ages entering into holy souls, she maketh them friends of God, and prophets.

22 For God loveth none but him that dwelleth with wisdom.

23 For she is more beautiful than the sun, and above all the order of stars: being compared with the light, she is found before it.

24 For after this cometh night: but vice shall not prevail against wisdom.

LESSON XLII.

Wisdom reacheth from one end to another mightily: and sweetly doth she order all things.

2 I loved her, and sought her out from my youth, I desired to make her my spouse, and I was a lover of her beauty.

3 In that she is conversant with God, she magnifieth her nobility: yea, the Lord of all things himself loved her.

4 For she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a lover of his works.

5 If riches be a possession to be desired in this life; what is richer than wisdom, that worketh all things?

6 And if prudence work; who of all that are is a more cunning workman than she?

7 And if a man love righteousness, her labours are virtues: for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude: which are such things, as men can have nothing more profitable in their life.

8 If a man desire much experience, she knoweth things of old, and conjectureth aright what is to come: she knoweth the subtleties of speeches, and can expound dark sentences: she foreseeth signs and wonders and the events of seasons and times.

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¶ 9 Therefore I purposed to take her to me to live with me, knowing that she would be a counseller of good things, and a comfort in cares and grief.

10 For her sake I shall have estimation among the multitude, and honour with the elders, though I be young.

11 Moreover by the means of her, I shall obtain immortality, and leave behind me an everlasting memorial to them that come after me.

12 I shall set the people in order, and the nations shall be subject unto me.

13 Horrible tyrants shall be afraid, when they do but hear of me; I shall be found good among the multitude, and valiant in war.

14 After I am come into mine house, I will repose myself with her: for her conversation hath no bitterness; and to live with her hath no sorrow, but mirth and joy.

15 Now when I considered these things in myself, and pondered them in my heart, how that to be allied unto wisdom is immortality;

16 And great pleasure it is to have her friendship; and in the works of her hands are infinite riches; and in the exercise of conference with her, prudence; and in talking with her, a good report; I went about seeking how to take her to me.

17 Nevertheless, when I perceived that I could not otherwise obtain her, except God gave her me; (and that was a point of wisdom also to know whose gift she was;) I prayed unto the Lord, and besought him, and with my whole heart I said;

LESSON XLIII.

Prayer for Wisdom.

O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things with thy word,

2 And ordained man through thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which thou hast made,

3 And order the world according to equity and righteousness, and execute judgement with an upright heart,

4 Give me wisdom, that sitteth by thy throne; and reject me not from among thy children:

5 For I, thy servant and son of thine handmaid, am a feeble person, and of a short time, and too young for the understanding of judgement and laws.

6 For though a man be never so perfect among the children of men, yet if thy wisdom be not with him, he shall be nothing regarded.

7 Thou hast chosen me to be a king of thy people, and a judge of thy sons and daughters:

8 Thou hast commanded me to build a temple upon thy holy mount, and an altar in the city wherein thou dwellest, a resemblance of the holy tabernacle which thou hast prepared from the beginning.

9 And wisdom was with thee:

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which knoweth thy works, and was present when thou madest the world, and knew what was acceptable in thy sight, and right in thy commandments.

10 O send her out of thy holy heavens, and from the throne of thy glory, that being present she may labour with me, that I may know what is pleasing unto thee.

11 For she knoweth and understandeth all things, and she shall lead me soberly in my doings, and preserve me in her power.

12 So shall my works be acceptable, and then shall I judge thy people righteously, and be worthy to sit in my father's seat.

13 For what man is he that can know the counsel of God? or who can think what the will of the Lord is?

14 For the thoughts of mortal men are miserable, and our devices are but uncertain.

15 For the corruptible body presseth down the soul, and the earthy tabernacle weigheth down the mind that museth upon many things.

16 And hardly do we guess aright at things that are upon earth, and with labour do we find the things that are before us: but the things that are in heaven who hath searched out?

17 And thy counsel who hath known, except thou give wisdom, and send thy Holy Spirit from above?

18 For so the ways of them which lived on the earth were reformed, and men were taught the things that are pleasing unto thee, and were saved through wisdom.

SECTION XVIII.—*History of the Jews.*

LESSON XLIV.

AND the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 Go thy way, and shew my people their sinful deeds, and their children their wickedness which they have done against me; that they may tell their children's children:

3 Because the sins of their fathers are increased in them: for they have forgotten me, and have offered unto strange gods.

4 Am not I even he that brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage? but they have provoked me unto wrath, and despised my counsels.

5 Pull thou off then the hair of thy head, and cast all evil upon them, for they have not been obedient unto my law, but it is a rebellious people.

6 How long shall I forbear them, unto whom I have done so much good?

7 Many kings have I destroyed for their sakes; Pharaoh with his servants and all his power have I smitten down.

8 All the nations have I destroyed before them, and in the

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East I have scattered the people of two provinces, even of Tyrus and Sidon, and have slain all their enemies.

9 Speak thou therefore unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord,

10 I led you through the sea, and in the beginning gave you a large and safe passage; I gave you Moses for a leader, and Aaron for a priest.

11 I gave you light in a pillar of fire, and great wonders have I done among you; yet have ye forgotten me, saith the Lord.

¶12 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, The quails were as a token to you; I gave you tents for your safeguard: nevertheless ye murmured there,

13 And triumphed not in my name for the destruction of your enemies, but ever to this day do ye yet murmur.

14 Where are the benefits that I have done for you? when ye were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness, did ye not cry unto me,

15 Saying, Why hast thou brought us into this wilderness to kill us? it had been better for us to have served the Egyptians, than to die in this wilderness.

16 Then had I pity upon your mournings, and gave you manna to eat; so ye did eat angels' bread,

17 When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and waters flowed out to your fill? for the heat I covered you with the leaves of the trees.

18 I divided among you a fruitful land, I cast out the Canaanites, the Pherezites, and the Philistines, before you: what shall I yet do more for you? saith the Lord.

19 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, When ye were in the wilderness, in the river of the Amorites, being athirst, and blaspheming my name,

20 I gave you not fire for your blasphemies, but cast a tree in the water, and made the river sweet.

21 What shall I do unto thee, O Jacob? thou, Judah, wouldest not obey me: I will turn me to other nations, and unto those will I give my name, that they may keep my statutes.

22 Seeing ye have forsaken me, I will forsake you also; when ye desire me to be gracious unto you, I shall have no mercy upon you.

23 Whensoever ye shall call upon me, I will not hear you: for ye have defiled your hands with blood, and your feet are swift to commit manslaughter.

24 Ye have not, as it were, forsaken me, but your own selves, saith the Lord.

LESSON XLV.

THUS saith the Almighty Lord, Have I not prayed you as a father his sons, as a mother her daughters, and a nurse her babes,

2 That ye would be my people, and I should be your God; that ye would be my children, and I should be your father?

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3 I gathered you together, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings: but now what shall I do unto you? I will cast you out from my face.

4 When ye offer unto me, I will turn my face from you: for your solemn feast days, your new moons, and your circumcisions, have I forsaken.

5 I sent unto you my servants the prophets, whom ye have taken and slain, and torn their bodies in pieces, whose blood I will require of your hands, saith the Lord.

6 Thus saith the Almighty Lord, Your house is desolate, I will cast you out as the wind doth stubble.

7 And your children shall not be fruitful; for they have despised my commandment, and done the thing that is evil before me.

¶ 8 Your houses will I give to a people that shall come; which not having heard of me, yet shall believe me; to whom I have shewed no signs, yet they shall do that I have commanded them.

9 They have seen no prophets, yet they shall call their sins to remembrance, and acknowledge them.

10 I take to witness the grace of the people to come, whose little ones rejoice in gladness; and though they have not seen me with their bodily eyes, yet in spirit they believe the things that I say.

11 Thus saith the Lord, I brought this people out of bondage, and I gave them my commandments by my servants the prophets; whom they would not hear, but despised my counsels.

12 The mother that bare them saith unto them, Go your way, ye children; for I am a widow and forsaken:

13 I brought you up with gladness; but with sorrow and heaviness have I lost you: for ye have sinned before the Lord your God, and done that thing that is evil before him.

14 But what shall I now do unto you? I am a widow and forsaken: go your way, O my children, and ask mercy of the Lord.

LESSON XLVI.

To the Lord our God belongeth righteousness, but unto us confusion of face, as it is come to pass this day, unto them of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

2 And to our kings, and to our princes, and to our priests, and to our prophets, and to our fathers:

3 For we have sinned before the Lord,

4 And disobeyed him, and have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in the commandments that he gave us openly:

5 Since the day that the Lord brought our forefathers out of the land of Egypt, unto this present day, we have been disobedient unto the Lord our God, and we have been negligent in not hearing his voice.

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6 Wherefore the evils cleaved unto us, and the curse, which the Lord appointed by Moses his servant at the time that he brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt, to give us a land that floweth with milk and honey, like as it is to see this day.

7 Nevertheless we have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God, according unto all the words of the prophets, whom he sent unto us.

8 But every man followed the imagination of his own wicked heart, to serve strange gods, and to do evil in the sight of the Lord our God.

9 Therefore the Lord hath made good his word, which he pronounced against us, and against our judges that judged Israel, and against our kings, and against our princes, and against the men of Israel and Judah,

10 To bring upon us great plagues, such as never happened under the whole heaven, as it came to pass in Jerusalem, according to the things that were written in the law of Moses;

11 That a man should eat the flesh of his own son, and the flesh of his own daughter.

12 Moreover he hath delivered them to be in subjection to all the kingdoms that are round about us, to be as a reproach and desolation among all the people round about, where the Lord hath scattered them.

13 Thus we were cast down, and not exalted, because we have sinned against the Lord our God, and have not been obedient unto his voice.

14 To the Lord our God appertaineth righteousness: but unto us and to our fathers open shame, as appeareth this day.

15 For all these plagues are come upon us, which the Lord hath pronounced against us.

16 Yet have we not prayed before the Lord, that we might turn every one from the imaginations of his wicked heart.

17 Wherefore the Lord watched over us for evil, and the Lord hath brought it upon us: for the Lord is righteous in all his works which he hath commanded us.

18 Yet we have not hearkened unto his voice, to walk in the commandments of the Lord, that he hath set before us.

¶ 19 And now, O Lord God of Israel, that hast brought thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and high arm, and with signs, and with wonders, and with great power, and hast gotten thyself a name, as appeareth this day:

20 O Lord our God, we have sinned, we have done ungodly, we have dealt unrighteously in all thine ordinances.

21 Let thy wrath turn from us: for we are but a few left among the heathen, where thou hast scattered us.

22 Hear our prayers, O Lord, and our petitions, and deliver us for thine own sake, and give us

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favour in the sight of them which have led us away:

23 That all the earth may know that thou art the Lord our God, because Israel and his posterity is called by thy name.

SECTION XIX.—*Promises to Israel.*

LESSON XLVII.

THIS is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endureth for ever: all they that keep it shall come to life; but such as leave it shall die.

2 Turn thee, O Jacob, and take hold of it: walk in the presence of the light thereof, that thou mayest be illuminated.

3 Give not thine honour to another, nor the things that are profitable unto thee to a strange nation.

4 O Israel, happy are we: for things that are pleasing to God are made known unto us.

5 Be of good cheer, my people, the memorial of Israel.

6 Ye were sold to the nations, not for your destruction: but because ye moved God to wrath, ye were delivered unto the enemies.

7 Ye have forgotten the everlasting God, that brought you up; and ye have grieved Jerusalem, that nursed you.

8 For when she saw the wrath of God coming upon you, she said, Hearken, O ye that dwell about Sion: God hath brought upon me great mourning;

9 For I saw the captivity of my sons and daughters, which the Everlasting brought upon them.

10 With joy did I nourish them; but sent them away with weeping and mourning.

11 Let no man rejoice over me, a widow, and forsaken of many, who for the sins of my children am left desolate; because they departed from the law of God.

12 They knew not his statutes, nor walked in the ways of his commandments, nor trod in the paths of discipline in his righteousness.

13 Let them that dwell about Sion come; and remember ye the captivity of my sons and daughters, which the Everlasting hath brought upon them.

14 For he hath brought a nation upon them from far, a shameless nation, and of a strange language, who neither reverenced old man, nor pitied child.

15 These have carried away the dear-beloved children of the widow, and left her that was alone, desolate without daughters.

16 But what can I help you?

17 For he that brought these plagues upon you will deliver

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you from the hands of your enemies.

18 Go your way, O my children, go your way, for I am left desolate.

19 I have put off the clothing of peace, and put upon me the sackcloth of my prayer: I will cry unto the Everlasting in my days.

¶ 20 Be of good cheer, O my children; cry unto the Lord, and he shall deliver you from the power and hand of the enemies.

21 For my hope is in the Everlasting, that he will save you; and joy is come unto me from the Holy One, because of the mercy which shall soon come unto you from the Everlasting, our saviour.

22 For I sent you out with mourning and weeping: but God will give you to me again with joy and gladness for ever.

23 Like as now the neighbours of Sion have seen your captivity; so shall they see shortly your salvation from our God, which shall come upon you with great glory, and brightness of the Everlasting.

24 My children, suffer patiently the wrath that is come upon you from God: for thine enemy hath persecuted thee; but shortly thou shalt see his destruction, and shalt tread upon his neck.

25 My delicate ones have gone rough ways, and were taken away as a flock caught of the enemies.

26 Be of good comfort, O my children, and cry unto God: for ye shall be remembered of him that brought these things upon you.

27 For as it was your mind to go astray from God; so, being returned, seek him ten times more.

28 For he that hath brought these plagues upon you shall bring you everlasting joy again with your salvation.

¶ 29 Take a good heart, O Jerusalem: for he that gave thee that name will comfort thee.

30 Miserable are they that afflicted thee and rejoiced at thy fall.

31 Miserable are the cities which thy children served: miserable is she that received thy sons.

32 For as she rejoiced at thy ruin, and was glad of thy fall; so shall she be grieved for her own desolation.

33 For I will take away the rejoicing of her great multitude, and her pride shall be turned into mourning.

34 O Jerusalem, look about thee toward the east, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God.

35 Lo, thy sons come, whom thou sentest away, they come gathered together from the east to the west by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

¶ 36 Put off, O Jerusalem, the garment of thy mourning and affliction, and put on the comeliness of the glory that cometh from God for ever.

37 Cast about thee a double garment of the righteousness

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which cometh from God; and set a diadem on thine head of the glory of the Everlasting.

38 For God will shew thy brightness unto every country under heaven.

39 For thy name shall be called of God for ever, The peace of righteousness, and The glory of God's worship.

40 Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and look about toward the east, and behold thy children gathered from the west unto the east by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the remembrance of God.

41 For they departed from thee on foot, and were led away of their enemies: but God bringeth them unto thee, exalted with glory, as children of the kingdom.

42 For God hath appointed that every high hill, and banks of long continuance, should be cast down, and valleys filled up, to make even the ground, that Israel may go safely in the glory of God.

43 Moreover even the woods and every sweet-smelling tree shall overshadow Israel by the commandment of God.

44 For God shall lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that cometh from him.

SECTION XX.—*Vision of Esdras.*

LESSON XLVIII.

O YE heathen, that hear and understand, Look for your Shepherd, he shall give you everlasting rest; for he is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world.

2 Be ready to the reward of the kingdom, for the everlasting light shall shine upon you for evermore.

3 Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory: I testify my Saviour openly.

4 O receive the gift that is given you, and be glad, giving thanks unto him that hath called you to the heavenly kingdom.

5 Arise up and stand, behold the number of those that be sealed in the feast of the Lord;

6 Which are departed from the shadow of the world, and have received glorious garments of the Lord.

7 Take thy number, O Sion, and shut up those of thine that are clothed in white, which have fulfilled the law of the Lord.

8 The number of thy children, whom thou longedst for, is fulfilled: beseech the power of the Lord, that thy people, which have been called from the beginning, may be hallowed.

¶ 9 I, Esdras, saw upon the mount Sion a great people, whom I could not number, and they all praised the Lord with songs.

10 And in the midst of them there was a young man of a high

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stature, taller than all the rest, and upon every one of their heads he set crowns, and was more exalted; which I marvelled at greatly.

11 So I asked the angel, and said, Sir, what are these?

12 He answered and said unto me, These be they that have put off the mortal clothing, and put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God: now are they crowned, and receive palms.

13 Then said I unto the angel, What young person is it that crowneth them, and giveth them palms in their hands?

14 So he answered and said unto me, It is the Son of God, whom they have confessed in the world. Then began I greatly to commend them that stood so stiffly for the name of the Lord.

15 Then the angel said unto me, Go thy way, and tell my people what manner of things, and how great wonders of the Lord thy God, thou hast seen.

Section XXI.—*Destruction of Babylon.*

LESSON XLIX.

Woe be unto thee, Babylon, and Asia! woe be unto thee, Egypt, and Syria!

2 Gird up yourselves with cloths of sack and hair, bewail your children, and be sorry; for your destruction is at hand.

3 A sword is sent upon you, and who may turn it back?

4 A fire is sent among you, and who may quench it?

5 Plagues are sent unto you, and what is he that may drive them away?

6 May any man drive away an hungry lion in the wood? or may any one quench the fire in stubble, when it hath begun to burn?

7 May one turn again the arrow that is shot of a strong archer?

8 The mighty Lord sendeth the plagues, and who is he that can drive them away?

9 A fire shall go forth from his wrath, and who is he that may quench it?

10 He shall cast lightnings, and who shall not fear? he shall thunder, and who shall not be afraid?

11 The Lord shall threaten, and who shall not be utterly beaten to powder at his presence?

12 The earth quaketh, and the foundations thereof; the sea ariseth up with waves from the deep, and the waves of it are troubled, and the fishes thereof also, before the Lord, and before the glory of his power:

13 For strong is his right hand that bendeth the bow; his arrows that he shooteth are sharp, and shall not miss, when they begin to be shot into the ends of the world.

14 Behold, the plagues are sent, and shall not return again, until they come upon the earth.

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15 The fire is kindled, and shall not be put out, till it consume the foundation of the earth.

16 Like as an arrow which is shot of a mighty archer returneth not backward: even so the plagues that shall be sent upon earth shall not return again.

SECTION XXII.—*Song of Judith.*

LESSON L.

THEN Judith began to sing this thanksgiving in all Israel, and all the people sang after her this song of praise.

¶2 And Judith said, Begin unto my God with timbrels, sing unto my Lord with cymbals: tune unto him a new psalm: exalt him, and call upon his name.

3 For God breaketh the battles: for among the camps in the midst of the people he hath delivered me out of the hands of them that persecuted me.

4 Assur came out of the mountains from the north; he came with ten thousands of his army, the multitude whereof stopped the torrents, and their horsemen have covered the hills.

5 He bragged that he would burn up my borders, and kill my young men with the sword, and dash the sucking children against the ground, and make mine infants as a prey, and my virgins as a spoil.

6 But the Almighty Lord hath disappointed them by the hand of a woman.

7 For the mighty one did not fall by the young men, neither did the sons of the Titans smite him, nor high giants set upon him: but Judith, the daughter of Merari, weakened him with the beauty of her countenance.

8 For she put off the garment of her widowhood for the exaltation of those that were oppressed in Israel, and anointed her face with ointment, and bound her hair in a tire, and took a linen garment to deceive him.

9 Her sandals ravished his eyes, her beauty took his mind prisoner, and the fauchion passed through his neck.

10 The Persians quaked at her boldness, and the Medes were daunted at her hardiness.

11 Then my afflicted shouted for joy, and my weak ones cried aloud; but they were astonished: these lifted up their voices, but they were overthrown.

12 The sons of the damsels have pierced them through, and wounded them as fugitives' children: they perished by the battle of the Lord.

¶13 I will sing unto the Lord a new song: O Lord, thou art great and glorious, wonderful in strength, and invincible.

14 Let all creatures serve thee: for thou spakest, and they

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were made, thou didst send forth thy spirit, and it created them, and there is none that can resist thy voice.

15 For the mountains shall be moved from their foundations with the waters, the rocks shall melt as wax at thy presence: yet thou art merciful to them that fear thee.

16 For all sacrifice is too little for a sweet savour unto thee, and all the fat is not sufficient for thy burnt offering: but he that feareth the Lord is great at all times.

SECTION XXIII.—*The Origin of Idolatry.*

LESSON LI.

SURELY vain are all men by nature, who are ignorant of God, and could not, out of the good things that are seen, know him that is: neither by considering the works did they acknowledge the workmaster;

2 But deemed either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circle of the stars, or the violent water, or the lights of heaven, to be the gods which govern the world.

3 With whose beauty if they being delighted took them to be gods; let them know how much better the Lord of them is: for the first Author of Beauty hath created them.

4 But if they were astonished at their power and virtue; let them understand by them, how much mightier he is that made them.

5 For by the greatness and beauty of the creatures proportionably the maker of them is seen.

6 But yet for this they are the less to be blamed: for they peradventure err, seeking God, and desirous to find him.

7 For being conversant in his works they search him diligently, and believe their sight: because the things are beautiful that are seen.

8 Howbeit neither are they to be pardoned.

9 For if they were able to know so much, that they could aim at the world; how did they not sooner find out the Lord thereof?

10 But miserable are they, and in dead things is their hope, who called them gods, which are the works of men's hands, gold and silver, to shew art in, and resemblances of beasts, or a stone good for nothing, the work of an ancient hand.

11 For neither were they from the beginning, neither shall they be for ever.

12 For by the vain glory of men they entered into the world, and therefore shall they come shortly to an end.

¶13 For a father afflicted with untimely mourning, when he hath made an image of his child soon taken away, now honoured him as a god, which was then a dead man, and delivered to those that were un-

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der him ceremonies and sacrifices.

14 Thus in process of time an ungodly custom grown strong was kept as a law, and graven images were worshiped by the commandments of kings.

15 Whom men could not honour in presence, because they dwelt far off, they took the counterfeit of his visage from far, and made an express image of a king whom they honoured, to the end that, by this their forwardness, they might flatter him that was absent, as if he were present.

16 Also the singular diligence of the artificer did help to set forward the ignorant to more superstition.

17 For he, peradventure willing to please one in authority, forced all his skill to make the resemblance of the best fashion.

18 And so the multitude, allured by the grace of the work, took him now for a god, which a little before was but honoured as a man.

19 And this was an occasion to deceive the world: for men, serving either calamity or tyranny, did ascribe unto stones and stocks the Incommunicable Name.

¶ 20 Now a carpenter that felleth timber, after he hath sawn down a tree meet for the purpose, and taken off all the bark skilfully round about, and hath wrought it handsomely, and made a vessel thereof fit for the service of man's life;

21 And after spending the refuse of his work to dress his meat, hath filled himself;

22 And taking the very refuse among those which served to no use, being a crooked piece of wood, and full of knots, hath carved it diligently, when he had nothing else to do, and formed it by the skill of his understanding, and fashioned it to the image of a man;

23 Or made it like some vile beast, laying it over with vermilion, and with paint colouring it red, and covering every spot therein:

24 And when he had made a convenient room for it, set it in a wall, and made it fast with iron:

25 For he provided for it that it might not fall, knowing that it was unable to help itself; for it is an image, and hath need of help:

26 Then maketh he prayer for his goods, for his wife and children, and is not ashamed to speak to that which hath no life.

27 For health, he calleth upon that which is weak: for life, prayeth to that which is dead: for aid, humbly beseecheth that which hath least means to help: and for a good journey, he asketh of that which cannot set a foot forward:

28 And for gaining and getting, and for good success of his hands, asketh ability to do of him, that is most unable to do any thing.

¶ 29 Again, one preparing himself to sail, and about to pass through the raging waves, calleth upon a piece of wood more

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rotten than the vessel that carrieth him.

30 For verily desire of gain devised that, and the workman built it by his skill.

¶ 31 But thy providence, O Father, governeth it: for thou hast made a way in the sea, and a safe path in the waves;

32 Shewing that thou canst save from all danger: yea, though a man went to sea without art.

33 Nevertheless thou wouldest not that the works of thy wisdom should be idle, and therefore do men commit their lives to a small piece of wood, and passing the rough sea in a weak vessel, are saved.

SECTION XXIV.—*The Supremacy of Truth.*

LESSON LII.

Now when Darius reigned, he made a great feast unto all his subjects, and unto all his household, and unto all the princes of Media and Persia;

2 And to all the governors and captains and lieutenants that were under him, from India unto Ethiopia, of an hundred twenty and seven provinces.

3 And when they had eaten and drunken, and being satisfied were gone home, then Darius the king went into his bedchamber, and slept, and soon after awaked.

4 Then three young men, that were of the guard that kept the king's body, spake one to another;

5 Let every one of us speak a sentence: he that shall overcome, and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto him shall the king Darius give great gifts, and great things in token of victory:

6 As, to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with bridles of gold, and an headtire of fine linen, and a chain about his neck:

7 And he shall sit next to Darius because of his wisdom, and shall be called Darius his cousin.

8 And then every one wrote his sentence, sealed it, and laid it under king Darius his pillow;

9 And said that, when the king is risen, some will give him the writings; and of whose side the king and the three princes of Persia shall judge that his sentence is the wisest, to him shall the victory be given, as was appointed.

10 The first wrote, Wine is the strongest.

11 The second wrote, The king is strongest.

12 The third wrote, Women are strongest: but above all things Truth beareth away the victory.

¶ 13 Now when the king was risen up, they took their writings, and delivered them unto him, and so he read them:

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14 And sending forth, he called all the princes of Persia and Media, and the governors, and the captains, and the lieutenants, and the chief officers;

15 And sat him down in the royal seat of judgement; and the writings were read before them.

16 And he said, Call the young men, and they shall declare their own sentences. So they were called, and came in.

17 And he said unto them, Declare unto us your mind concerning the writings. Then began the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine;

¶18 And he said thus, O ye men, how exceeding strong is wine! it causeth all men to err that drink it:

19 It maketh the mind of the king and of the fatherless child to be all one; of the bondman and of the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich:

20 It turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither sorrow nor debt:

21 And it maketh every heart rich, so that a man remembereth neither king nor governor; and it maketh to speak all things by talents:

22 And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords:

23 But when they are from the wine, they remember not what they have done.

24 O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus? And when he had so spoken, he held his peace.

¶25 Then the second, that had spoken of the strength of the king, began to say,

26 O ye men, do not men excel in strength, that bear rule over sea and land, and all things in them?

27 But yet the king is more mighty: for he is lord of all these things, and hath dominion over them; and whatsoever he commandeth them, they do.

28 If he bid them make war the one against the other, they do it: if he send them out against the enemies, they go, and break down mountains, walls, and towers.

29 They slay and are slain, and transgress not the king's commandment; if they get the victory, they bring all to the king, as well the spoil, as all things else.

30 Likewise for those that are no soldiers, and have not to do with wars, but use husbandry, when they have reaped again that which they had sown, they bring it to the king, and compel one another to pay tribute unto the king.

31 And yet he is but one man: if he command to kill, they kill; if he command to spare, they spare;

32 If he command to smite, they smite; if he command to make desolate, they make desolate; if he command to build, they build:

33 If he command to cut down, they cut down; if he command to plant, they plant.

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34 So all his people and his armies obey him: furthermore, he lieth down, he eateth and drinketh, and taketh his rest:

35 And these keep watch round about him, neither may any one depart, and do his own business, neither disobey they him in any thing.

36 O ye men, how should not the king be mightiest, when in such sort he is obeyed? And he held his tongue.

¶ 37 Then the third, who had spoken of women, and of the truth, (this was this Zorobabel,) began to speak.

38 O ye men, it is not the great king, nor the multitude of men, neither is it wine, that excelleth; who is it then that ruleth them, or hath the lordship over them? are they not women?

39 Women have borne the king and all the people that bear rule by sea and land.

40 Even of them came they: and they nourished them up that planted the vineyards, from whence the wine cometh.

41 These also make garments for men; these bring glory unto men; and without women cannot men be.

42 Yea, and if men have gathered together gold and silver, or any other goodly thing, do they not love a woman which is comely in favour and beauty?

43 A man leaveth his own father that brought him up, and his own country, and cleaveth unto his wife.

44 He sticketh not to spend his life with his wife, and remembereth neither father, nor mother, nor country.

45 By this also ye must know that women have dominion over you: do ye not labour and toil, and give and bring all to the woman?

46 Yea, a man taketh his sword, and goeth his way to rob and to steal, to sail upon the sea, and upon rivers;

47 And looketh upon a lion, and goeth in the darkness; and when he hath stolen, spoiled and robbed, he bringeth it to his love.

48 Wherefore a man loveth his wife better than father or mother.

49 Yea, many there be that have run out of their wits for women, and become servants for their sakes.

50 Many also have perished, have erred, and sinned for women.

51 O ye men, how can it be but women should be strong, seeing they do thus?

52 Then the king and the princes looked one upon another: so he began to speak of the truth.

¶53 O ye men, are not women strong? great is the earth, high is the heaven, swift is the sun in his course, for he compasseth the heavens round about, and fetcheth his course again to his own place in one day.

54 Is he not great that maketh these things? therefore great is the truth, and stronger than all things.

55 All the earth calleth upon the truth, and the heaven bless-

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eth it: all works shake and tremble at it, and with it is no unrighteous thing.

56 Wine is wicked, the king is wicked, women are wicked, all the children of men are wicked, and such are all their wicked works; and there is no truth in them; in their unrighteousness also they shall perish.

57 As for the truth, it endureth, and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore.

58 With her there is no accepting of persons or rewards; but she doeth the things that are just, and refraineth from all unjust and wicked things; and all men do well like of her works.

59 Neither in her judgement is any unrighteousness; and she is the strength, kingdom, power, and majesty, of all ages. Blessed be the God of truth.

60 And with that he held his peace. And all the people then shouted, and said, Great is truth and mighty above all things.

THE END.

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